

USED CAR WALKAROUND CHECKLIST



CHECK FOR INCONSISTENT GAPING

Run your finger through the gap where the edge of the trunk and hood meets the bumpers. Is the space uniform? If not, the car may have been in an accident and not repaired properly.



REALLY LOOK AT THE PAINT

Does it look like orange peel anywhere - a slightly dimpled surface? Do all the panels of the car match in color and is the finish (dull/shiny) uniform? Are there obvious swirls where it was buffed poorly?



TEST THE HINGES

Test the hinges on the car - open and close the trunk and doors. Pay attention to strange noises or a loose feeling anywhere. Request adjustments if anything doesn't feel right. No one wants a trunk that's difficult to open or a squeaky door.



GET DATA ON THE WHEELS

Does the car have new tires or brakes? A state inspection report will tell you how much tread depth is on the tires and thickness is left on the brakepads. Measure what's left vs minimum to pass inspection. If it's close, request new.



DON'T FORGET THESE NON-NEGOTIABLES

Peek in the glove compartment for the owner's manual. Bonus: You might even see the original window sticker in there (take a pic with your phone if you do.) Confirm the car has floormats, a spare tire and second key.

