



Quick Guide To...

Buying a Used Car



Buying a used car can be a stressful experience to many. Use this handy guide to remind you of things you need to check when inspecting a potential purchase. Don't forget to read through the full guide beforehand though. You can find that on our website: www.northwoodhillsservicestation.co.uk

Golden Rules:

Never look at a car in the dark or the rain.

Make sure your test drive route takes in a variety of different roads.

If you are unsure in any way, walk away. There are always other cars.

Exterior

- Check the panels match for colour and shade and make sure the panel gaps are even.
- Look for any overspray, (behind the fuel flap and under the wheel arches).
- Make sure the boot floor is not creased. The same goes for panels under the bonnet.
- Look under the car for any serious rust issues.
- Look under the bonnet and check fluid levels and condition.
- Check for any major fluid leaks or patches on the drive.

Interior

- Check the condition of the interior: seats, carpets, seatbelts etc..
- Have a good smell for any cigarette smoke or pet odours.
- Make sure ALL switches, gadgets and gizmos work as they should.

Test Drive

- Look for smoke from the exhaust pipe under acceleration.
- Listen for any undue noise from the engine whilst it's running.
- Make sure the brakes are sharp and don't pull the car to one side when applied.
- Listen for any knocks, rattles or clunks, particularly over bumps.
- Make sure the steering is responsive and not vague.
- When driving on a straight road, make sure the car doesn't drift to one side.
- Keep an eye on the engine temperature gauge for any overheating issues.
- Once the engine is warm, look in the rear view mirror again for any smoke.

Paper Work

- Inspect the V5c. Make sure the chassis number recorded matches the one on the car.
- Check for a current MoT certificate and make sure there were no advisories listed.
- Have a good look through the service history making sure the car has been looked after properly and has had work such as the timing belt done if required.
- Match up mileages in the service book with any old MoT's for consistency.
- Make sure the person showing you the car is the person named on the V5c. If not, ask why.



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