Used Car Inspection Checklist - UAE

50 points to check before you pay | 2026 edition

360CarExpert

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MAKE / MODEL		YEAR		MILEAGE (KM)	
PLATE / CHASSIS NO.		SELLER NAME		ASKING PRICE (AED)	
INSPECTION DATE		LOCATION		INSPECTED BY	

How to use: tick **OK** or **Issue** for each point and note what you find. Points tagged **KEY** are potential deal-breakers: if any of them fails, walk away or get a professional inspection before paying a deposit.

#	A. Paperwork & History	OK	ISSUE	NOTES
1	Mulkiya (registration card) matches the seller's ID and the car	☐	☐	
2	Chassis/VIN on the Mulkiya matches the VIN on the car (windscreen, door pillar, engine bay) [KEY]	☐	☐	
3	Registration is valid and the annual vehicle test is current	☐	☐	
4	Traffic fines and Salik balance checked and cleared	☐	☐	
5	Full service history available (ideally agency/dealer stamped)	☐	☐	
6	No outstanding bank loan; liability clearance letter provided if the car was financed [KEY]	☐	☐	
7	Specification confirmed (GCC vs imported) and number of previous owners known	☐	☐	

#	B. Exterior & Body	OK	ISSUE	NOTES
8	Panel gaps are even on both sides; no misaligned panels	☐	☐	
9	Paint colour and texture match across all panels (repaint signs)	☐	☐	
10	Paint thickness meter readings are consistent panel to panel	☐	☐	
11	No overspray on rubber seals, trims, lights or door jambs	☐	☐	
12	No rust or corrosion on door edges, wheel arches, boot lip or underbody	☐	☐	
13	Windscreen and glass free of chips and cracks; glass markings match	☐	☐	
14	Headlights and tail lights clear, dry inside and fully working	☐	☐	
15	Doors, bonnet and boot open and close smoothly; seals intact	☐	☐	
16	Bumpers and mounting points show no cracks or poor repairs	☐	☐	

#	C. Tyres, Wheels & Brakes	OK	ISSUE	NOTES
17	Tread depth is even and adequate on all four tyres	☐	☐	
18	Tyre age (DOT date code) checked; brand and size match on all four	☐	☐	
19	No uneven wear pattern (alignment or suspension problem)	☐	☐	
20	Rims free of kerb damage, cracks or bends	☐	☐	
21	Brake discs not heavily scored or lipped; pad thickness acceptable	☐	☐	
22	Spare tyre, jack and tool kit present	☐	☐	

#	D. Engine & Under the Bonnet	OK	ISSUE	NOTES
23	Cold start is prompt, with no smoke and no warning lights left on	☐	☐	
24	Oil level and colour normal; no milky residue under the oil cap [KEY]	☐	☐	
25	Coolant level and colour normal, with no leaks (critical in UAE heat)	☐	☐	
26	No oil or fluid leaks around the engine, sump, gaskets or hoses	☐	☐	
27	Belts and hoses free of cracks and fraying	☐	☐	
28	Battery age, terminal condition and voltage acceptable	☐	☐	
29	No knocking, ticking, whining or rattling from the engine	☐	☐	
30	OBD scan shows no stored fault codes and no recently cleared codes [KEY]	☐	☐	

#	E. Transmission, Suspension & Steering	OK	ISSUE	NOTES
31	Gear changes are smooth, with no jerks, slipping or delay	☐	☐	
32	Manual: clutch bite point normal and no slipping. Automatic: no hesitation	☐	☐	
33	No clunks over bumps; shock absorbers are not leaking	☐	☐	
34	Steering is centred, with no play and no pull to either side	☐	☐	
35	No clicking from CV joints on full-lock turns; driveshaft boots intact	☐	☐	
36	4x4/AWD system engages properly (if fitted)	☐	☐	

#	F. Interior, AC & Electronics	OK	ISSUE	NOTES
37	AC reaches cold quickly at full blast, with strong airflow and no odour	☐	☐	
38	Seat, pedal and steering wheel wear is consistent with the odometer reading	☐	☐	
39	Odometer reading is consistent with service records (odometer fraud check) [KEY]	☐	☐	
40	All windows, locks, mirrors and the sunroof work	☐	☐	
41	Infotainment, Bluetooth, cameras and parking sensors work	☐	☐	
42	All dashboard warning lights switch off after start; cluster not tampered with	☐	☐	
43	Airbag light behaves normally; seatbelts retract and latch properly	☐	☐	
44	No damp or musty smell; no water lines or silt on carpets or boot floor [KEY]	☐	☐	

#	G. Flood, Accident & Structural	OK	ISSUE	NOTES
45	No silt, mud or rust under seats, seat rails, door sills or in the spare wheel well [KEY]	☐	☐	
46	No weld marks, kinks or sealant differences on the chassis, engine bay or boot floor [KEY]	☐	☐	
47	Fender, bonnet and door bolts not disturbed or mismatched (signs of repair)	☐	☐	
48	Independent history or professional inspection report obtained	☐	☐	

#	H. Test Drive	OK	ISSUE	NOTES
49	No vibration at highway speed (100 km/h and above); car tracks straight	☐	☐	
50	Brakes stop the car straight, with no pulsing, noise or pulling	☐	☐	

Scoring guide

Your result	What it suggests
0 issues and no KEY fails	Looks promising. Still consider a professional inspection for hidden faults.
1-4 issues, no KEY fails	Negotiate the price or ask the seller to fix the issues before you buy.
5+ issues, or any KEY fail	High risk. Walk away, or get an independent inspection before paying any deposit.

Want an expert to check it for you?
A professional pre-purchase inspection catches what you can't see in a car park: hidden accident repairs, flood damage, tampered odometers and stored fault codes.
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This checklist is a general buyer's guide and does not replace a professional inspection. It cannot detect every hidden defect, and 360CarExpert accepts no liability for decisions made using it.