



Buying Used Vehicles

While buying a used vehicle will save you money in purchase price and help you avoid depreciation costs, it is important to do your research before you purchase one. To avoid buying a car with hidden problems, consider these purchase precautions.

The following characteristics are indicators that a used vehicle might not be in as good of condition as the seller claims:

- Excessive wear and tear in the interior, regardless of what the odometer says
- Damp, musty odors (this might indicate leaks in the windshield, weatherstripping or heater core)
- Cars that ride lower in the front as compared to the back (this might indicate worn springs)
- Vehicles that bounce when pushed (this might indicate worn shocks and struts)
- Tires with worn outer edges from the front end
- Clanking noises when the vehicle is in gear
- Repainted body panels
- Motor oil that is not full (this might indicate that the engine is leaking or burning oil)
- Knocking and ticking sounds that increase as the engine speed increases
- Transmission fluid that is black or brown
- Banging, grinding or squeaking noises while driving

If you notice any of these characteristics in a used vehicle that you are thinking about buying, consider looking to a different seller or dealership for your purchase. Buying a used vehicle with potential problems will only lead to increased maintenance and repair costs in the long run.

Be Wary of Mileage Tampering

Do not be fooled by the mileage on the odometer. To see if the instruments have been tampered with, look for fingerprints or scratches inside the plastic covering. Mileage numbers that don't line up properly on the odometer offer another fraud clue. This may be a crude attempt at getting you to buy a vehicle that has far more miles (and problems) than what the low mileage would suggest.

For additional vehicle purchase guidance and auto insurance solutions, contact us today.