



Buying a Used Vehicle: Consumer Checklist

Buying a used vehicle is often one of the biggest purchases a consumer makes. Following are some steps you can take **before** you buy to protect your investment.

- ✓ **Determine the Fair Market Value of the Vehicle You Intend To Purchase**
Visit sites such as www.edmunds.com, www.nadaguides.com or www.kelleybluebook.com to determine a fair purchase price for the vehicle you are interested in before visiting the dealership.
- ✓ **Obtain Your Credit Report and Shop Around for Financing**
Obtaining your credit report and shopping for financing before you visit the dealership provides you with knowledge and bargaining power.
- ✓ **Get Title and Vehicle History Reports**
Obtain title and vehicle history reports from [Carfax](#), [AutoCheck](#) or [the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System \(NMVTIS\)](#) to learn more about the specific vehicle you are seeking to purchase.
- ✓ **Arrange a Pre-Purchase Inspection**
Have the vehicle inspected by a certified mechanic before you buy.
- ✓ **Understand “As-Is” Sales and the 15-Day/500-Mile Limited Powertrain Warranty**
Read the FTC Used Car Buyers Guide to determine whether you are purchasing a vehicle “as is” or with a warranty. Beginning July 1, 2017, some used vehicles will be sold with a State of Illinois mandated 15-day/500-mile powertrain warranty that will also be posted on the FTC Used Car Buyers Guide. This 15-day/500-mile powertrain warranty has several restrictions outlined more fully in the Attorney General’s *Buying a Used Vehicle* fact sheet at [ConsumerGuideBuyingUsedVehicleEnglish.pdf \(illinoisattorneygeneral.gov\)](#).
- ✓ **Determine the Fair Market Value of Your Trade-In**
If you have a vehicle to trade in, visit sites such as www.edmunds.com, www.nadaguides.com or www.kelleybluebook.com to determine a fair value for your trade-in before heading to the dealership. Also consider getting several purchase quotes for your trade-in before settling on a fair market price.
- ✓ **Be Cautious Before Agreeing To Buy Add-On Products and Extended Service Contracts**
Dealerships often sell automobile-related add-on products, such as extended service contracts, gap insurance, credit life and disability insurance, and window etching. Consumers do not need to purchase these products, and you should research whether these products are valuable to the purchase. It is important to read the terms and conditions of these add-on products before you buy them.
- ✓ **Remember: There Is No Three-Day Right to Cancel**
Do your homework before buying a used vehicle. There is generally no automatic three-day right of cancellation to protect you if you change your mind.