

Buying & Inspection Checklist

The Hunt — buy smart, don't get scammed

Before You Call

- Cross-check the listing price against similar chassis/mileage/condition listings
- Look for signs of a dealer flip: same phone number on multiple ads, stock photos, vague ownership story
- Ask for the chassis code, build date, and Scheckheft (service book) photos

The Phone Call

- Why are you selling? (Hesitation or vague answers = red flag)
- Has it ever been in an accident, even minor?
- Any warning lights on right now?
- Where has it been serviced — dealer, independent, or DIY?
- Is the price negotiable, and why that number?

In-Person Inspection

- Bring a torch and a fridge magnet
- Check rear subframe mounting points / rear-axle-carrier for cracks and rust (BMW E46 especially)
- Check sills, jacking points, and spare-wheel well for filler (magnet won't stick = filler)
- Test SBC / brake warning lights and pedal feel (Mercedes W211 especially)
- Check oil condition and ask for oil-change history (Audi B6 1.8T — sludge risk)
- Verify all electrics: windows, mirrors, central locking, dashboard warning lights
- Check tyre wear pattern for alignment/suspension issues
- Take it for a test drive: cold start, idle, braking, steering pull

Paperwork

- Fahrzeugschein & Fahrzeugbrief match the seller's ID
- Current TÜV (HU) sticker date and last inspection report
- No open finance/leasing on the vehicle