

# Test Drive Checklist

By Taylor Peterson

- ☐ Before a Test Drive
  - ☐ Walk around the car.
  - ☐ Inspect car's lines, quality of assembly, body panel alignment, paint and door handles.
  - ☐ Check if the doors, trunk, and hood are easy to operate.
  - ☐ Check if the windows are UV-protected.
  - ☐ Check for any special features.
  - ☐ Try it on for size, get in and out, get comfortable.
  - ☐ Adjust the seats Sit in the back seat.
  - ☐ Check if the car interior is well-lighted.
  - ☐ Try the accessories before going on the test drive.
  - ☐ Make sure the controls are easy to reach and operate.
  - ☐ Open and close the tailgate/trunk.
  - ☐ Ask yourself if you would be comfortable driving it every day.
  - ☐ Let the salesperson give the pitch before hitting the road.
- ☐ A Test Drive
  - ☐ Drive the exact model of car you're interested in buying.
  - ☐ Choose your own route.
  - ☐ Drive on a number of different road surfaces: winding roads, city streets, hills and freeways.
  - ☐ Test the power in real-world situations: highway merging, passing, city driving.
  - ☐ Try driving with the air conditioner on to see if it results in too much power drain.
  - ☐ Transmission Look for smooth operation and ease of use.
  - ☐ Check out steering responsiveness.
  - ☐ Practice long turns and short turns, sudden swerves and smooth transitions.
  - ☐ Use the breaks: brake softly, then aggressively to test the car's reaction to sudden braking.
  - ☐ Listen for excessive engine, interior, road and wind noise Do this with the windows up and down.

- ☐ See how comfortable you are in the driver seat.
- ☐ Parallel park the car to check for blind spots or any difficulty identifying the corners of the car.