

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.