

# 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.