

# What are Potential **Red Flags** When Buying a Car

When buying a used car, it's important to be cautious and look for potential red flags that could signal a scam or hidden issues.

Download this PDF checklist for easy reference!



## **Gaps in the Vehicle History**

Always review a car's history report. If there's missing or conflicting info, it could mean hidden problems. Get reports from trusted sources like Carfax or AutoCheck.



## **Signs of Uneven Wear**

Check for uneven tire wear, rust, or worn seats. These could suggest the car hasn't been cared for or has more miles than listed.



## **Too Good to Be True Price**

If the price is way lower than expected, it might mean trouble. Double-check market value and proceed with caution if the price is unusually low.



## **Lack of Service Records**

A well-maintained car should have service records. If the seller can't provide them, it may have been neglected.



## **Dashboard Warning Lights**

During a test drive, make sure there are no warning lights. They often signal bigger issues that need attention.



## **Strange Noises or Smells**

Listen for grinding, squeaks, or knocking sounds and check for unusual odors. These might signal mechanical issues that should be inspected.



## **Overly Clean Interior**

An overly polished interior could be hiding damage. Examine the car closely for any signs of quick fixes or concealed problems.



## **Missing or Inconsistent Paperwork**

Verify the car's title, registration, and service records. Missing or mismatched paperwork could be a red flag for ownership or legal issues.



## **Odd Behavior from the Seller**

If the seller is evasive or pushy, it's a sign to be cautious. Trust your instincts when something doesn't feel right.



## **Issues Found During Inspection**

Have a mechanic inspect the car before buying. If they uncover significant problems, it might be wise to walk away.