Pre-purchase vehicle inspection

Sample inspection report



OUR INSPECTION CHECKLIST

101

inspection points

17 paint measurement areas

Space for measurements and findings

Vehicle and appointment

Assignment / reference	**Inspector**
Vehicle identification number (VIN)	**Inspection location and date**
First registration	**Displayed odometer reading**
Engine / transmission	**Access, permissions and equipment**

Report contents

02 Paint thickness measurement

03 Bodywork, paint and exterior fittings

04 Engine, cooling and drivetrain

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06 Wheels, tyres and brakes

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08 Road test and diagnostics

09 Identity, history and additional checks

10 Measurement and diagnostics log

11 Findings and next steps

Inspection scope depends on the assignment, vehicle, access and equipment. Removing parts and specialist tests are agreed separately.

Paint thickness measurement

Accessible painted metal surfaces · Readings in µm · P1–P3 for each area

Record the gauge and probe, material, measurement conditions and any film or special finish. Left and right are viewed in the direction of travel.

Gauge / function check

Material / conditions / protective film

Component / measurement area	Locations	P1	P2	P3
Bonnet / front luggage compartment lid	left · centre · right	–	–	–
Left front wing	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Right front wing	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Left outer door panel	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Right outer door panel	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Roof panel	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Left rear quarter panel	ahead of · above · behind wheel arch	–	–	–
Right rear quarter panel	ahead of · above · behind wheel arch	–	–	–
Left A-pillar / painted frame	lower · centre · upper	–	–	–
Right A-pillar / painted frame	lower · centre · upper	–	–	–
Left roof side rail	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Right roof side rail	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Left sill / door opening	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Right sill / door opening	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Left sill panel	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Right sill panel	front · centre · rear	–	–	–
Rear lid / engine cover	left · centre · right	–	–	–

Other areas and measurement limitations

Front and rear trim, plastic fittings and any spoiler inserts are unsuitable for the metal probe in this sample. Visually check them in the bodywork section. Suitable plastics can be measured separately using an appropriate ultrasonic probe.

Measure only accessible painted areas on a suitable substrate. Mark different roof configurations, covered sills or unsuitable locations as limited or not applicable. Compare readings by panel. A single reading does not establish the cause of damage.

A dash marks an empty sample field. The sample contains no fabricated readings.

Bodywork, paint and exterior fittings

Visual inspection under suitable lighting

Inspection item	Check and documentation	Status
3.01 Painted surfaces	Look for scratches, stone chips, dents, dull patches and differences in colour or texture.	–
3.02 Signs of repainting	Check for overspray, masking edges, inclusions, sanding marks and transition lines.	–
3.03 Panel gaps and alignment	Compare lids, doors, wings, quarter panels and trim side to side.	–
3.04 Fasteners	Inspect accessible bolt heads, hinges and brackets for tool marks or signs of removal.	–
3.05 Folds, seams and edges	Assess seam sealer, joints, edge protection and visible signs of repair.	–
3.06 Front and rear trim	Check for cracks, distortion, scuffs, uneven panel gaps and visible damage to mounts.	–
3.07 Mirrors, trims and covers	Record fixings, breaks, scuffs and missing parts.	–
3.08 Sills and wheel arches	Inspect lower edges, wheel housings and areas prone to ground contact for damage.	–
3.09 Glass and glass markings	Record chips, cracks, scratches and visible signs of installation work.	–
3.10 Headlights and rear lights	Check lenses and housings for damage, moisture and unusual fit.	–
3.11 Seals and drains	Inspect door and lid seals, accessible drains and signs of water ingress.	–
3.12 Openings and latches	Check doors, front and rear lids, fuel flap and emergency releases where accessible.	–
3.13 Roof equipment and spoilers	Check the sunroof, roof panel and active rear spoiler where fitted.	–
3.14 Corrosion and ageing	Document corrosion on relevant metal areas, corrosion beneath coatings and galvanic corrosion.	–
3.15 Modifications and wraps	Document add-on parts, wraps and protective film. Identify covered areas.	–

Status for each item: A = no issue noted · B = finding · E = limited · N = not checked · X = not applicable

Use the inspection item number to link findings, photos and limitations to the record on page 11.

Engine, cooling and drivetrain

Visual inspection, start-up and functional observations

Inspection item	Check and documentation	Status
4.01 Traces of oil in the engine bay	Check visible covers, housings and lines for oily film, seepage or fresh drops.	–
4.02 Oil level	Follow the manufacturer’s procedure using the appropriate display or dipstick. Record measurement conditions.	–
4.03 Coolant level and leaks	Check under suitable operating conditions. Inspect the reservoir, hoses and visible connections.	–
4.04 Radiators and air intakes	Inspect air intakes, accessible heat exchangers and fans for damage, dirt and visible leaks.	–
4.05 Brake fluid level	Check the reservoir and visible level where accessible. Test the boiling point separately.	–
4.06 Hoses and lines	Inspect visible coolant, fuel and vacuum lines for chafing, cracks or moisture.	–
4.07 Charge-air and intake system	Check accessible pipes, clamps, connections and brackets. Pressure-test separately.	–
4.08 Belt drive	Where visible, look for fraying and cracks and listen for noise.	–
4.09 Engine and gearbox mounts	Check visible mounts for damage. Note unusual vibrations when starting or moving off.	–
4.10 Cold start	Observe cranking time, noise, exhaust, warning lights and idle. Flag an unverified cold start if the car is already warm.	–
4.11 Warm-up and hot restart	Observe the temperature display, idle, restart and unusual noises.	–
4.12 Gearbox and clutch	On PDK, observe engagement of D and R, pull-away and gear changes. On manual gearboxes, check clutch operation and gear selection.	–
4.13 Exhaust system	Check visible mounts, shields, corrosion and soot marks. Record unusual noises.	–
4.14 After the road test	Recheck accessible areas for fresh leaks, unusual smells or warning messages.	–

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Underbody, suspension and steering

Vehicle lift and accessible areas

Inspection item	Check and documentation	Status
5.01 Underbody panels	Inspect mountings, scratches, grounding marks, cracks and loose panels.	–
5.02 Floor panels and longitudinal members	Check accessible areas for deformation, corrosion and visible evidence of repairs.	–
5.03 Jacking points and sills	Inspect jack and lift points for indentations, deformation and cracks.	–
5.04 Subframes and mountings	Inspect front and rear subframes, visible bolts and mounting points.	–
5.05 Control arms and bushes	Check for cracks, deformation or excessive play with the suspension suitably unloaded.	–
5.06 Ball joints and locating joints	Assess boots and play using an appropriate method and vehicle support.	–
5.07 Springs and dampers	Inspect springs, bump stops, dust boots, damper bodies and any oil leakage.	–
5.08 Front axle lift	If fitted, check lifting and lowering to manufacturer specifications. Observe displays and warnings.	–
5.09 Anti-roll bars and drop links	Check mounts, boots and fixings for abnormalities.	–
5.10 Steering rack and tie rods	Check boots, fasteners and unusual play. Record steering feel on the road test.	–
5.11 Driveshafts and joints	Check boots for cracks or grease traces and make sure the clamps are secure.	–
5.12 Engine, gearbox and final drive from below	Inspect accessible housings, joins and sealing areas for oil seepage or fresh drops.	–
5.13 Brake and fuel lines	Inspect visible lines, brackets and hoses for corrosion, chafing, kinks and moisture.	–
5.14 Exhaust and heat shields	Record dents, visible leaks, loose shields and mountings.	–
5.15 Wheel bearings and wheel clearance	With the wheel suitably unloaded, check play, running noise and visible signs of contact.	–
5.16 Covered areas	List hidden areas in the report. Remove parts only by agreement and with permission.	–

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Wheels, tyres and brakes

Document axles and sides individually

Inspection item	Check and documentation	Status
6.01 Tyre identification by wheel	Record make, model, size, load and speed ratings, DOT code and direction of rotation.	–
6.02 Tyre approvals	Check the fitted combination against available documentation. Record the Porsche N-marking where applicable.	–
6.03 Tread depth by wheel	Measure inner, centre and outer tread. Record each of the four wheel positions separately.	–
6.04 Tyre damage	Inspect visible tread and sidewalls for cracks, bulges and embedded objects.	–
6.05 Wear pattern	Record uneven wear, heel-and-toe wear or flat spots. Investigate causes separately.	–
6.06 Wheel rims	Check visible areas for kerb damage, cracks, distortion and signs of repair.	–
6.07 Fixings and accessories	Record unusual details on visible wheel fasteners, spacers, locking bolts and accessories.	–
6.08 Tyre pressure and TPMS	Record pressure at a suitable temperature. Check the tyre pressure monitoring display and warnings.	–
6.09 Brake discs	Check visible faces for grooves, lip formation, cracks, corrosion and uneven pad contact.	–
6.10 Brake pads	Record remaining inner and outer pad thickness where accessible. Flag pads that cannot be seen.	–
6.11 Brake calipers and hoses	Check for visible damage, moisture, chafing and leaks.	–
6.12 Parking brake	Check application, release and indicators. Check holding performance only if it can be done safely.	–
6.13 Pedals and floor mats	Check pedal pads, travel and return while stationary. Check that the driver’s mat is correctly positioned and secured.	–
6.14 Detailed brake testing	Measure disc thickness only with adequate access and specifications. Assess roller testing and ceramic brakes separately.	–

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Use the inspection item number to link findings, photos and limitations to the record on page 11.

Interior, electrics and equipment

Stationary checks according to vehicle equipment

Inspection item	Check and documentation	Status
7.01 Interior and moisture	Document upholstery, carpets, headlining, odours, moisture and visible wear.	–
7.02 Luggage compartment and storage	Check the front luggage compartment, trim, visible wells and accessories.	–
7.03 Seats and head restraints	Check mechanical or electric adjustment, locking, memory, heating and ventilation where fitted.	–
7.04 Seat belts	Check condition, retraction and buckles. Inspect accessible child-seat anchorages.	–
7.05 Instrument cluster and warnings	Check displays at ignition-on and start-up. Record abnormalities.	–
7.06 Central locking and keys	Check available keys, remotes, entry systems and locking.	–
7.07 Windows, mirrors and roof	Test windows, mirror adjustment and folding, and the sunroof if fitted.	–
7.08 Exterior lights	Check dipped and main beam, indicators, hazard lights, brake, reversing and number plate lights as fitted.	–
7.09 Interior lights	Operate interior and reading lights, door switches and any luggage compartment or ambient lighting.	–
7.10 Horn	Briefly operate the horn from the driver’s seat and check that it works.	–
7.11 Wipers, washers and demisting	Check operation, spray pattern and accessible heating and demisting functions.	–
7.12 Air conditioning, heating and fan	Observe operation, air distribution, change in temperature and noises.	–
7.13 Infotainment and connections	Check the screen, controls, audio, navigation, phone connection and available ports.	–
7.14 Parking aids and camera	Where fitted, check the display, picture and signals in a safe close-range area.	–
7.15 Driver assistance	Record availability, displays and visible error messages. Check calibration separately.	–
7.16 12 V battery	Inspect accessible terminals and fixings. Record load or conductance tests separately.	–

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Use the inspection item number to link findings, photos and limitations to the record on page 11.

Road test and diagnostics

Subject to permission, suitable conditions and compatible diagnostic equipment

Inspection item	Check and documentation	Status
8.01 Driving conditions	Record route, duration, temperature, road profile and initial conditions.	–
8.02 Pull-away and load changes	Observe response, judder, hesitation and unusual noises.	–
8.03 Gear changes	Check upshifts, downshifts, manual mode, pull-away and low-speed manoeuvres as appropriate for the gearbox.	–
8.04 Straight-line running and steering wheel position	Assess on a suitable road without interference from side winds or the road surface.	–
8.05 Steering and manoeuvring	Check steering return, stiffness, noise and other issues during slow manoeuvres.	–
8.06 Noise and vibration	Record how they vary with wheel speed, engine speed, load and road surface.	–
8.07 Suspension and driving modes	Observe the response to bumps and the effect of available settings.	–
8.08 Braking on the road test	During normal braking in safe conditions, record pedal feel, judder, noises and pull to one side.	–
8.09 Stored fault codes	Query accessible modules such as engine, gearbox, ABS/ESP, airbag and body control.	–
8.10 Diagnostic record	Record the tool and scope, accessible modules, status, fault codes and available freeze-frame data.	–
8.11 Emissions readiness and live data	Record readiness, temperature readings and relevant operating data where meaningful and available.	–
8.12 Model-specific diagnostics	Use a suitable tool to read and assess available operating hours, over-rev data or other model-specific values.	–
8.13 Diagnostic limitations	Flag inaccessible modules. Leave fault codes intact. A clear fault memory does not replace a functional check.	–

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Use the inspection item number to link findings, photos and limitations to the record on page 11.

Identity, history and additional checks

Documentation, cross-checks and more detailed inspections

Inspection item	Check and documentation	Status
9.01 Vehicle identification number	Compare the VIN on the vehicle with the registration papers and available documents.	–
9.02 Vehicle details and equipment	Check the model, first registration, drivetrain, gearbox, equipment and documented modifications.	–
9.03 Mileage	Compare the odometer with service records, inspection reports, available diagnostic data and mileage records from the vehicle history.	–
9.04 Maintenance and repairs	Record service history, invoices, intervals, outstanding maintenance and repairs.	–
9.05 Previous damage and history	Retrieve a carVertical report using the VIN. Compare recorded damage with the seller’s statements, documents and vehicle findings.	–
9.06 Registration and import	Review available registration documents, the CoC, import/export information and relevant supporting documents as agreed.	–
9.07 Service campaigns and recalls	Check VIN-specific status with an available manufacturer source and note when the data was issued or checked.	–
9.08 Accessories and supplied items	Record the number of keys, tool kit, breakdown kit and agreed accessories.	–
9.09 Wheel alignment and test bench	Arrange separate checks of wheel alignment, brake forces, lighting or dampers if needed.	–
9.10 Detailed engine checks	Arrange compression, leak-down, borescope, oil sampling or smoke and pressure tests separately using appropriate procedures.	–
9.11 Specialist diagnostics	Arrange coolant pressure, brake fluid boiling point, 12 V battery or ADAS calibration checks separately.	–
9.12 Electric or hybrid vehicles	This module does not apply to the sample 911. For suitable vehicles, optional checks include a high-voltage visual inspection, charging operation and a separate battery state-of-health test.	–
9.13 Condition, open questions and likely work	Rank findings, link photos and agree any additional checks or cost estimate needed.	–

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Use the inspection item number to link findings, photos and limitations to the record on page 11.

Measurement and diagnostics log

Record units, measurement conditions, sources and any applicable manufacturer or wear limits.

Wheels and brakes

Measurement	FL	FR	RL	RR
Tyre size / DOT code	–	–	–	–
Tyre pressure (bar, note temperature)	–	–	–	–
Tread depth inner / centre / outer (mm)	–	–	–	–
Brake disc thickness (mm), if measured	–	–	–	–
Inner / outer brake pad thickness (mm), if accessible	–	–	–	–

FL = front left · FR = front right · RL = rear left · RR = rear right. For brake discs, consider material and test method.

Operating readings and diagnostics

12 V battery: voltage, method, result

Oil level: display, measurement conditions

Coolant: level, temperature / operating state

Brake fluid: level / boiling point if measured

Road test: route, duration and initial conditions

Scan tool: system, version and time

Fault codes / control modules / status

Readiness / relevant live data / operating hours

Additional test: method and reference value

Attachment / photo / diagnostic printout

Leave fields blank until a measurement is recorded. Explicitly record missing permissions, inaccessible areas and unavailable equipment.

Findings and next steps

Findings, photographic evidence, limitations and recommendations to inform the purchase decision.

Inspection item / finding / photo number

Inspection item / finding / photo number

Open questions / limitations

Points to clarify before purchase / potential additional checks

Measurement and diagnostics records

Attach tyre measurements, photos and diagnostic printouts where appropriate. Record the method, units and reference values for any additional measurements.

Date / scope

Attachments and photo references