

Pre-Purchase Inspection Check List

From 356 Registry.org Contributed by: Steve Proctor

Whether you do it yourself, or hire someone else to do it, it's vitally important to thoroughly inspect that 356 of your dreams before you hand over your hard-earned cash. Copy the following Pre-Purchase Check List and take it along when you do your inspection. You may want to devise a scoring method, weighing things proportionate to their importance to you.

You can use the blanks at right for a "yes" or "no", or to assign a numerical value (1-10) to each item. Customize as you wish.

GENERAL

- * Clear title? _____
- * Kardex or Certificate of Authenticity available? _____
- * Folder of records / receipts / maintenance? _____

OUTSIDE

- * Straightness of body (sight down sides) _____
- * Evenness of all door / panel gaps _____
- * Paint condition? _____
- * Evidence of repairs _____
- * Operation/fit of top and side curtains _____
- * Fit of top boot/tonneau _____
- * Cond / originality, wheels/hubcaps/tires (date /mfr.) _____
- * Presence and correctness of deco trim _____
- * Smoothness, detail of lower rocker panels _____
- * Smoothness, detail of wheel well arches _____
- * Reflectors in place _____
- * Type of bumpers/overrides/guards (correct?) _____
- * Apply "bondo-meter" to known rust areas _____

INSIDE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT

- * Steering wheel / horn ring correct? _____
- * Horn operational _____
- * Headlight flasher ("horn ring") _____
- * Operation / appearance of windshield wipers _____
- * Op. / app of headlights, turnsignals, taillights _____
- * Appearance of seat bases. Rust? _____
- * Op. of drivers' seat adjustment (fore and aft) _____
- * Op. of pass. seat adjustment (fore and aft) _____
- * Appearance of underdash (overspray / wiring) _____
- * Appearance of Thresholds (lift rubber covers) _____
- * Appearance of Upholstery/seats _____
- * Appearance of Floor (Lift Rubber Mats) _____
- * Appearance of doors and door wells _____
- * Appearance of door undersides - rust? _____
- * Cond. of "rolled edge" @ front of door opening _____
- * Sound of door closing _____

INSIDE LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT

- * Presence/appearance of body plaque _____
- * Appearance of hood underside (bent?) _____
- * Appearance of battery floor (bottom-tire out) _____
- * Appearance of battery floor (sides) _____

- * Appearance of battery and holddowns/cover _____
- * Presence / appearance of tool kit _____
- * Presence / appearance of jack and handle _____
- * Presence / app. of spare tire, wheel (date / mfr) _____
- * Appearance of matching number at hood hinge _____
- * Appearance of steering box _____
- * Appearance of wiring _____
- * App. of gas tank, sending unit, cap (date stamp) _____

INSIDE ENGINE COMPARTMENT

- * Appearance of matching number at deck lid _____
- * Correct engine for car? _____
- * Engine number (# _____)
- * Type of carbs (correct?) _____
- * Type of distributor (correct?) _____
- * Condition of oil on dipstick _____
- * Condition of engine wiring _____
- * General condition (other) _____
- * Type of muffler, cond. Flappers, J-pipes? _____

UNDER THE CAR

- * Appearance of battery floor (probe) _____
- * Appearance of closing panels (front) (probe) _____
- * Appearance of frame struts (probe) _____
- * Appearance of fender braces (probe) _____
- * Appearance of closing panels (rear) (probe) _____
- * Appearance of longitudinals and jackspurs (probe) _____
- * Appearance / operation of suspension & shocks _____
- * Appearance of rocker panels (bondo ?) _____
- * Excess undercoating? (probe) _____
- * Appearance/Operation of heater boxes _____
- * Presence of oil leaks _____
- * Correct transmission for car? _____

DRIVING IMPRESSIONS

- * Oil /generator lights operational at key turn? _____
- * High beam light operational? _____
- * Turn signal indications correct? Auto-cancel? _____
- * Startup oil smoke? _____
- * Deceleration oil smoke? _____
- * Steering free play? _____
- * Steering tracks straight? Brakes pull? _____
- * Engine smooth, quiet, powerful _____
- * Transmission smooth, quiet, adjusted properly _____
- * Excess slop in linkage? _____
- * Speedster gears? (tach / speedo relationship) _____
- * Tachometer smooth, accurate (Note redline, lag) _____
- * Speedometer/odometer _____
- * Oil Temp Gauge _____
- * Gas Gauge _____
- * Heater: Heat? Smells? _____

Prepared by John Audette, 2003