

# Buy Safe

## Helpful tips when purchasing your next car.

- **Rust** – Check Underneath the vehicle & engine bay. Buying out of town request photos.
- **Interior Smells** – Buying out of town. Ask to confirm no offensive odors (animal, cigarettes...)
- **Fluid levels** – Engine oil check, unscrew cap to check for clean oil, no sludge around the oil cap or down the oil cap hole from a visual check. Water/engine coolant, check overflow bottle for clean water, coolant color, make sure there is no signs of oil.
- **Hoses & drive belts** – A very easy visual check here for any cracks or wear.
- **Cambelts** – Does the vehicle have a cambelt or chain – Check service interval.
- **Air conditioning** – blowing cold air? If the air is not cold, the air conditioning system may just need a re gas. But if more than that air conditioning systems can be very expensive.
- **Tyres** – Check tyres for depth/cracks/ wear on the side walls. Cracked tyres & side walls pass NZ warrant of fitness's.
- **Spare wheel** – Ask how the spare wheel or puncture repair kits work. Some cars have a spare wheel; some have slime kits. Many cars don't have spare wheels now.
- **Stereo** – NZ radio stations. You may need to request or pay for a band expander or stereo programming upgrade.
- **Keys** – If two keys are important to you. Ask the dealer to price up one for you. Most second-hand vehicles will not have a spare key.
- **Electric vehicles (EV's)** – Request a copy with of the vehicles State of health (SOH) including charge cycles. When purchasing an Electric vehicle (EV) make sure you are provided with a NZ spec IP Rated charging cable.
- **Japanese Auction Sheets** – request a copy from the dealer. A good honest dealer will explain the Auction sheet to you. Make sure the vehicle is not an accident grade (A on the auction sheet) or a repaired accident grade (RA on the Auction sheet) An accident grade or repaired accident grade vehicle is of much less quality & cheaper to buy in Japan. If the seller/dealer says they don't have the auction sheet. Our advice is to not purchase from that seller/dealer.
- **VOSA (Vehicle Offer & Sale Agreement)** – Do not sign it if you are uncomfortable, feel pressured. If your conditions are not written down on the VOSA (Vehicle offer & sales agreement). Your deposit is non-refundable.
- **Mechanical & Electrical Breakdown Insurance (Warranty)** – Good car dealers will have many options available. Not all policies are the same. Is the policy fit for purpose? Mechanical Breakdown Insurance can provide a superior level & longer term of cover. (The dealers' responsibility under the CGA does run out).
- **You are not covered by the Consumer Guarantees Act when buying privately** – A dealer has a place of business to go to for help, we have responsibilities. Especially if a member of the MTA or other relevant associations.