

Test Driving the Car You Want to Buy



**So, you have figured out what kind of car you want to buy...
You have gone looking at cars and found one you like...
Here are some things that you absolutely need to know before you buy the
car you THINK you want to buy!**

- 1). Tire wear...even... uneven...insideoutside....may mean ball joints and an alignment. (also tires would need replaced...expensive)
- 2). Have some one follow you in their car....is the car "tracking" properly....may be an indicator of a repaired wreck.
- 3). Light blue puff of smoke at start up.....indicator or valve seal leak...may use oil.
- 4). White vapor from exhaust after car is warm...may mean head gasket...antifreeze leaking into cylinder. (Check coolant level).
- 5). Liquid under parked car...oil, water....just to see if it leaks while sitting. May have valve cover leak or hose leaking...water pump weeping?
- 6). Look for oil residue in coolant overflow...major.... stay away from this vehicle unless owner tells you the story.
- 7). Start the engine cold...I would be suspicious if I went to test drive a used car and it was warmed up....two things....
 - a) did battery start car properly, and
 - b) I would want to listen for lifter noise.
Pecking sound on a cold start if lifters are bad until the oil is warm and pressure is built up in the lifter.
- 8). Check/ask if the car was ever flooded. I'm talking about being submerged or under water. Stay away from any vehicle which shows signs of having been flooded!

Questions to ask of the seller:

- a) May I see the service records for this vehicle?
- b) How long have you owned the vehicle?
- c) Why are you selling the vehicle?
- d) May I contact the previous owner of this car? (if you are buying from a car dealer)

Remember, **you** are the one with the money...they are trying sell and will tell you all the "good" features....however, honest people will answer the probing questions to the best of their ability even if it is a "negative" thing about the vehicle.