

Make Your Car Shopping More Fun

Shopping for a used car can be tricky if you are new to buying a car on your own. UsedCarsGroup.com offers the following tips for buying a used car.

- Be realistic about what you actually need – a car that the family can take a vacation in as well as use around town for daily runs, a car for just two people to zoom around looking hip, a car for image and promotion purposes at your job
- Set your priorities of features including colors, fabrics, gadgets and mileage limits.
- Make a physical list of those priorities with the most important as #1 and each one numbered below that.
- Research your top three make and model choices, checking for recalls
- Investigate the cars history using CarFax
- Inspect the car and look for signs that may indicate problems – a slight difference in the paint color in one area of the vehicle, warning lights indicating that the car needs maintenance, car doors that don't close exactly flush
- Know what your absolute financial limit is including taxes, title changes and insurance.
- If you can arrange private financing through your bank or credit union, do so prior to searching for a car.
- Look for terms like “lien holder”, “lien”, “salvage”, “water damages” and either change your mind about buying the car or get the car inspected by a mechanic at the maker's dealership.
- Know that you are not likely to find any used cars for sale that meet every one of the priorities on your list.
- Finally, before you make the final choice online, have a “choosing party” and get your family or friends together to help you look at the pros and cons of your top 3 choices.