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How to Assess a Used Car in Edmonton before Buying It by [Dante Mallet](#)

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More and more families are turning to used cars rather than sparkling new ones. The current economic situation is educating people to find economical and practical alternatives. And what's practical about a used car? Take the simple fact that a car's value deteriorates once it rolls out of the lot. Edmonton residents want to spend money on a vehicle that will not generate a lot of loss, hence the practicality of purchasing a second-hand ride.

Most cars in Edmonton used car dealerships are well-maintained and serviced. You'd be surprised to see that some pre-owned sedans, SUVs or trucks still look "factory fresh". The model and condition of the car you can purchase depends on your budget and needs. Should you decide to visit local dealerships to shop and compare prices, here are some guidelines on how to check a used car before buying it:

Inspect It Thoroughly

Walk around the car and look at it from all angles internally and externally. Check for scratches, dents or signs that it has undergone body work or a cover-up. You wouldn't put your family in a car that has been subjected to a collision repair, would you? If possible, look under the car for rust, broken or loose parts. Any slight physical problem in a used car can lead to future repairs that can burden your pocket.

Request for a Test Drive

A number of Edmonton used cars dealers allow clients to test drive their vehicles. They know that handling the vehicle is a good way for a driver to decide his compatibility with the car. Note how long it takes for the car to start and listen for unusual sounds that can indicate a defective engine or exhaust system. Before driving off, try turning the steering wheel and observe the wheels. It should turn as soon as you move the steering wheel at about 2 cm or 0.8 inch.

When you're on the road, evaluate the gas and clutch for smoothness and responsiveness. Try stepping on the brake pedals at low speed. Are there any problems like poor action or sharp noises? If the car pulls to one side when you use the brakes, there must be something wrong with the car's brake system or alignment. Used car dealers Edmonton drivers prefer are those that offer warranties and maintenance auto services.

Check the Papers

Quality Edmonton used cars should have history reports and service books. From these documents, you can judge a car's reliability. You should choose a car with no past accidents and hasn't had a lot of repairs. Read more tips on how to check used cars at usedcars.about.com.

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