



Classic Muscle Car Buyer & Ownership Checklist

You can use this worksheet when viewing, comparing or maintaining a classic American muscle car.

Please note: This worksheet is intended for use as a starting point, not a substitute for an inspection by a qualified classic-car mechanic.

Before You Visit the Car

Confirm the exact model.

- ☐ For example: is it a GTO, Skylark Gran Sport, Mustang Boss 429, Camaro Z/28, Road Runner Superbird, Hemi 'Cuda or Chevelle SS 454?
- ☐ Ask for the VIN, current title status, mileage and a list of known repairs.
- ☐ Request photos of the engine bay, undercarriage, trunk, floor pans and VIN tags before traveling.
- ☐ Ask whether the car is numbers-matching, restored, modified or assembled from multiple cars.
- ☐ Check recent sales of comparable cars with similar condition, documentation and originality.

Walk-Around Inspection:

Body: Look for:

- ☐ Rust bubbles
- ☐ Mismatched paint
- ☐ Uneven panel gaps
- ☐ Filler
- ☐ Overspray
- ☐ Signs of accident repair

Frame and structure: Inspect

- ☐ Frame rails
- ☐ Floor pans
- ☐ Trunk floor
- ☐ Rocker panels
- ☐ Suspension mounting points



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Doors, hood and trunk: Check:

- ☐ Fit
- ☐ Hinges
- ☐ Latches
- ☐ Whether the panels open and close correctly

Glass and trim: Look for:

- ☐ Cracks
- ☐ Pitting
- ☐ Missing emblems
- ☐ Damaged moldings
- ☐ Incorrect replacement parts

Interior:

- Check seats, carpet, dash, gauges, headliner, door panels, heater controls and signs of water damage.

Undercarriage:

- Look for fresh undercoating hiding repairs, oil leaks, damaged exhaust and worn suspension parts.

Engine, Transmission and Road Test

Start the engine when it's cold, if possible, because a warm engine may hide hard starting, smoke or noisy lifters.

Look for:

- ☐ Blue smoke
- ☐ Coolant leaks
- ☐ Fuel leaks
- ☐ Overheating
- ☐ Unusual engine noise
- ☐ Check whether the engine, intake, carburetor, exhaust, transmission and rear axle match the claimed specification.

Verify:

- ☐ Oil pressure
- ☐ Charging voltage
- ☐ Temperature
- ☐ Operation of the factory gauges

During the road test, check:

- ☐ Steering play
- ☐ Braking



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- ☐ Shifting
- ☐ Clutch action
- ☐ Vibration
- ☐ Suspension noise.
- ☐ Before purchasing, have a qualified mechanic perform:
 - ☐ Compression test
 - ☐ Leak-down test
 - ☐ Lift inspection

Documentation and Authenticity

- ☐ Compare the VIN and body tags with the title and available factory documentation.
- ☐ Ask for build sheets, window sticker, original invoice, warranty booklet, owner history and restoration receipts. *(Some owners will have these older documents, some won't.)*
- ☐ Verify special-model claims through marque experts, recognized registries or factory documentation.
- ☐ Record casting numbers, engine codes, transmission codes, axle code and date codes where appropriate.
- ☐ Treat rare options and high-horsepower claims as items to verify, not assumptions.

Questions for the Seller

What is the reason for selling? _____

How long have you owned it? _____

What work has been completed recently? _____

What needs attention next? _____

Has it ever been wrecked, flooded or stored outdoors? _____

Are there known title, VIN or ownership issues? _____



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Classic Muscle Car Information Worksheet

Keep this page with your records, inspection notes and maintenance receipts. Print out extra maintenance logs as needed.

Year / Make / Model _____
VIN _____
Purchase date _____
Purchase price _____
Current mileage _____
Title status _____
Exterior color _____
Interior color _____
Engine _____
Transmission _____
Rear axle / ratio _____
Known modifications _____
Important Numbers and Codes Engine casting / code _____
Transmission code _____
Body / trim tag notes _____
Build date _____
Factory options _____
Registry / documentation _____

Maintenance Log

Date _____
Mileage _____
Work completed _____
Cost / shop _____
Questions _____

Parts and Future Plans Parts or services needed: _____

Questions to research: _____

Future improvements or preservation goals: _____



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Maintenance Log

Date _____

Mileage _____

Work completed _____

Cost / shop _____

Questions _____

Parts and Future Plans Parts or services needed: _____

Questions to research: _____

Future improvements or preservation goals: _____

Maintenance Log

Date _____

Mileage _____

Work completed _____

Cost / shop _____

Questions _____

Parts and Future Plans Parts or services needed: _____

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