USED CAR INSPECTION CHECKLIST

YEAR: ____________________________________________

MODEL: ___________________________________________

MILES: ____________________________________________

LOCATION/OWNER: __________________________________
ITEMS TO BRING

- CAMERA
- CHECKLIST
- PEN
- WHITE PAPER TOWELS
- FLASHLIGHT
- HAND MIRROR
- MAGNET
- MUSIC CD
- MP3 PLAYER W/ CORD
- RULER
- PRESSURE GAUGE
- RAGS
- OUTDOOR BLANKET
VEHICLE HISTORY

- HOW MANY OWNERS DID THE CAR HAVE? WAS IT REGULARLY MAINTAINED (OBTAIN VEHICLE HISTORY REPORT AND/OR LOG OF REPAIRS)?

- WAS THE VEHICLE PRIMARILY USED IN A SNOWY OR WATERFRONT (SALTY) REGION?

- HAS THE CAR REACHED ITS [40/70/100/150],000 MILE INSPECTION? ASK ABOUT SPARK PLUG, BRAKE FLUID, BELT REPLACEMENTS AND OIL CHANGES.

- ARE THERE OVERNIGHT OR EXTENDED TEST DRIVE OPTIONS TO TAKE IT TO A MECHANIC?

- IS THE MODEL/YEAR KNOWN TO HAVE ANY REPORTED PROBLEMS? BE AWARE OF THESE DURING INSPECTION.

- WERE THERE ANY RECALLS FOR THIS MODEL/YEAR? ASK FOR EVIDENCE THAT THE RECALLED PART HAS BEEN REPLACED.

EXTERIOR

- KEYS: Do the remote entry controls and alarm work?

- KEYS: How many copies of the key will you receive?

- DOORS: Any damage/scratches around the keyholes?

- DOORS: Do the doors, trunk, and hood open and close smoothly (not loose/misaligned)?

- GLASS: Any chips, scratches, or other damage on the windshield or windows?
• **WIPERS:** Are the wiper blades cracked, torn, or otherwise damaged (including rear wiper)?

• **PAINT:** Any rust, scratches, dents, holes, or spots painted over? Check for reflections & color consistency for signs of repair/dents/etc.

• **RUST:** Any holes or rust spots on the muffler, exhaust line, transmission, doors, or elsewhere underneath the car?

• **RUST:** Any excessive wear or rust on the struts, shocks, or around the wheel wells?

• **TIRES:** Any signs of tears, bulges, scratches, patching, or low tread (less than 6/32” deep will need replaced)?

• **TIRES:** Is the tread wear even on all tires in all spots? If not, why (check alignment/suspension condition)?

• **TIRES:** Check the tire pressure and presence of all caps.

• **HITCH:** Is there a trailer hitch that shows excessive wear/usage (causing strain on car)?

• **LIGHTS:** Check the headlights and all emergency lights, brake lights, flood lights, and brights.

• **FLUIDS:** Any leaks underneath the car before AND after driving it?

**INTERIOR**

• **VIN:** Check the VIN plaque and manufacturer’s label within the driver’s door jamb for anything unusual (signs of alteration)?

• **SMELL:** Any strong/odd smells?

• **HORN:** Does the horn work? Can it be heard from inside another car?

• **SEAT BELTS:** Are they firm (not loose), extendable, retractable, un-frayed?

• **AIRBAGS:** Any sign of the airbags being used (abnormal wear on the steering wheel or dashboard)?
• **GLOVE BOX:** Check for signs of damage, moisture, smells, etc. Is there a manual? If there is an air filter located here, check its condition.

• **MIRRORS:** Do the mirrors adjust? Are they too loose?

• **WIPERS:** Do the wipers move and dispense liquid?

• **DASHBOARD:** Do all the power outlets & displays work (A/C, cigarette lighter, clock, gauges, etc)?

• **BRAKE:** Does the parking brake engage and disengage freely?

• **WINDOWS:** Do all windows go up AND down smoothly?

• **ROOF:** Does the sunroof open and close properly (no visible damage/leaks/rust)?

• **MATS:** Are all mats present and in good condition? Check for moisture or damage hidden underneath for signs of rust or flood damage.

• **SEATS:** Are all seats present? Do they all fold/recline/adjust properly?

• **SEATS:** Any upholstery damage or excessive seat wear?

• **SEATS:** Are there heated seats? Test for excessive heat or lack of heat.

• **SEATS:** Are the head restraints sturdily secured but moveable?

• **BUTTONS:** Do the remote gas lid and trunk release buttons work?

• **GAS:** Any damage to the gas cap area? Is the gas cap present?

• **TRUNK:** Check for signs of wear (crumpling, dents) not visible from the outside.

• **SPARE:** Is the spare tire and jack (if originally included) present and in good condition?

• **ALARM:** Does the car alarm work when the locks are fiddled with?
UNDER THE HOOD

- **MOUNTS:** Are all the engine mounts in good condition?

- **COOLANT:** Is the color green/blue (okay) or brown (bad)?

- **OIL CAP:** Make sure there is a cap present. Is it sludgy (unkempt) or foamy (leaky gasket)?

- **OIL:** Is the engine oil caramel-colored (good) or dark chocolate (bad)?

- **TRANSMISSION FLUID:** Should be pink, not thick/dark brown (wipe on a paper towel to check).

- **TANKS:** Bring a flashlight to check inside the engine holes and fluid tanks.

- **CONDITION:** Any cracks or holes on the hoses/belts in the engine?

- **CONDITION:** Any strange bolts or indications of shoddy repair (looks out of place)?

- **AIR FILTER:** Is the engine air filter clean or dirty?

- **BATTERY:** What is the date listed on the battery (needs replaced every 4-5 years)? Any corrosion or rust on it?

- **MOTOR:** Run the car with the hood up. Are there any odd smells or sounds from the engine? Any excessive vibrations or smoke?
WHILE DRIVING

• **START:** Does the car start right away or does it strain/stall (evidence of battery/ignition)?

• **IDLE:** Do the RPMs remain smooth and constant while idling?

• **IDLE:** Any unusual noises?

• **IDLE:** Shift from park to drive, then drive to reverse. Any delay, jolts, or clunks?

• **IDLE:** Any smoke (especially blue or black) or odors coming from the tailpipe?

• **CITY:** Any grinding or slack response of the brakes?

• **CITY:** Any clicking or popping when slowly accelerating in tight turns (CV joints)?

• **CITY:** Does the car suddenly, unintentionally accelerate?

• **CITY:** Any unusual hesitations, sounds, clunks, or jolts?

• **HWY:** Does the car drift to either side when driving OR applying the brakes?

• **HWY:** Does the steering wheel pull or vibrate?

• **HWY:** Does the cruise control work?

• **HWY:** Does the A/C, heat, Outlet usage, or anything else put a strain on the car?

• **HWY:** Do the heating and air conditioning work? Any weird odors from the vents?