



USED ENGINE HEALTH TEST

WHAT TO LOOK FOR BEFORE BUYING A USED ENGINE - CHECKLIST

Below is the complete testing process as performed by Engine City Imports on all imported engines. If buying from another source, tick the boxes as you go to make sure you have checked the important parts of the engine before buying. **There is no need to perform the test on our engines as it has already been done twice for you by our engine expert.**

VISUAL CHECKS

- ☐ **Water Hoses & Jackets**
If they look rusty this may be because of lost coolant caused by a blown head gasket. You don't want this.
- ☐ **Oil Filler Cap**
Make sure it locks into place and feels sturdy.
- ☐ **Oil Quality**
Check the oil itself. If it's black and sludgy, it hasn't been changed often enough and you may want to reconsider buying the engine. If it's brown, it'll need an oil change soon. If it's mocha or slightly white, this is a sign of a broken head gasket where coolant has been leaking into the oil.
- ☐ **Inspect Spark Plugs**
Healthy spark plugs should be brown/tan in colour. Not black and not light tan-white. Oil on the plugs can indicate a problem with the piston rings.
- ☐ **Exhaust Manifold**
Here you are looking for oil sediment. You don't want to find any.
- ☐ **Connection Hoses & Wiring**
Have a look all around it and check that all connection hoses and wiring are complete and in good condition.
- ☐ **Electrodes & Insulators**
If these are damaged, destroyed, melted or missing, don't buy the engine. It is an indication of sever engine damage.

Run/Bench Test (Manual Pump Engines Only)

Electronic Fuel Pump engines won't be able to run outside of the car.

- ☐ **Compression Test**
Using a compression tester, test the compression of the engine when it is running. If you are experienced, you may be able to tell if the compression is good without a tester but by just running the engine. Keep in mind a cold engine will have less compression than a warm engine.
- ☐ **Leaks**
Also while the engine is running, make sure there are no oil or water leaks.
- ☐ **Sound**
When the engine is running try to listen for any unusual rattling or knocking sounds as this may be an indicator that parts have come loose or are rubbing somewhere.
- ☐ **Turbocharger** (if applicable)
Inspect the turbine for a broken compression shaft or damaged wheel.