

10 Point Used Motorcycle Inspection Checklist

	Inspection Step	What to look for	Signs of neglect/problems
1	Start the bike	Bike starts quickly/without hesitation. Settles into even idle. Dashboard display is normal.	Multiple attempts required to start. Uneven idle (make/model dependant). Pinging or knocking sound from engine at idle. Error message(s) or Check Engine Light (CEL) on dash
2	Sit on the bike	Rider triangle (bars, foot pegs and seat) feel straight and even. Check clutch and brake lever/pedal for feel.	Handlebars/clip-ons or footpegs are uneven/not straight. Brakes feel "squishy". Clutch is stiff.
3	Check oil	Oil is clean (judged by colour) and oil level is correct (check dipstick or sight glass on engine case)	Dirty oil (especially if seller claims it was changed recently). Oil level too high or too low
4	Check brake fluid	Fluid is clear/gold colour and filled to correct level.	Dirty or low brake fluid
5	Check steering stops	Even steering stops when bars are turned lock-to-lock	Broken or uneven steering stop(s). Steering stops that have been repaired (often the sign of a bike that's been down)
6	Check wheels and tires	Even wear profile. Tires are less than 5 years old (see appendix for location). Wear profile aligned with what seller has disclosed. No visible patches or tire plugs. No scratches or dents on wheels.	Uneven wear (may result from incorrect tire pressures, burnouts or abuse). Wheels/rims are bent or have been "curbed"
7	Check exhaust	Muffler tip is clean/free of excessive black soot (which would indicate incorrect fuelling).	Blue or white smoke coming from exhaust. Unbunt fuel smell. Thick black soot around exhaust
8	Check suspension	Hold front brake and compress front end. Look for dry fork tubes (front) and shock (rear).	Fork oil weeping from fork seals or shock. Bouncy front suspension (when applying brake and compressing fork)
9	Check radiator and oil cooler(s) (where applicable)	Fins on radiator and oil cooler(s) are straight. No sign of leaking fluids from radiators or hoses.	Bent fins on radiator or oil cooler(s). Fluid leaking from radiator or oil cooler(s)
10	Check electrical	Headlight (low and high beam), turn signals license plate light and brake light work correctly.	Lights or signals don't work