Checklist for car buyers

Know what questions to ask when shopping for a used car

What parts or systems are under warranty, if any?

How long does the warranty last?

Can my own mechanic inspect the car before I buy it?

How many people have owned the car?

Has the car been in any accidents?

What major repairs has the car had — have any original parts been replaced?

Can you give me the name and phone number of the most recent owner (then call them)?

I am shopping around. What is your best price?

If I buy the car and don’t like how it runs, can I return it and get my money back? (If answer is “yes,” get the agreement in writing before buying.)

What type of financing do you offer?

OTHER STEPS TO TAKE

- Check for a Buyers Guide (right). Dealers must display this on all used cars.
- Look at the car in the daylight, when defects will be easier to spot.
- Find the Blue Book value of the car, such as at kbb.com.
- Have a mechanic of your choice inspect the car.
- Do a title search to check the car’s history, such as at autocheck.com or carfax.com.