my first car safety checklist

Use this checklist as a guide when shopping around for your car and add your own features to the list to reflect your own preferences or travel needs.

Intended use

Does the car meet your intended use?

- Off-road use
- Long distance travel
- General family motoring
- Towing a boat/trailer
- Sufficient storage space to secure items
- Everyday commuting

Your requirements


Safety features

How many stars does the car have under a safety rating system?

Does the car have the following safety features?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crash protection</th>
<th>Crash avoidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seat belt pretensioners</td>
<td>Anti-lock braking system (ABS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load limiter seat belts</td>
<td>Electronic stability control (ESC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustable head restraints</td>
<td>Emergency brake assist (EBA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cargo barrier</td>
<td>Traction control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crumple zones</td>
<td>Cruise control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airbags</td>
<td>Active cruise control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual front airbags</td>
<td>Reverse camera and/or sensors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtain airbags and side impact protection</td>
<td>Automated daytime running lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side airbags</td>
<td>Light coloured car which is highly visible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee airbags</td>
<td>Intelligent speed adaptation (ISA) system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More safety feature questions next page...
Driveability

During the inspection and test drive, did the car operate to your satisfaction? Consider this in terms of:

- Steering
- Braking
- Suspension
- Reversing
- Ease of parking
- Cooling and heating
- Turning circle

Features to avoid

Consider other drivers and road users (pedestrians/cyclists) when you buy your car and avoid features that can cause unnecessary injury in the event of a crash.

- High powered vehicles
- Bull bars (non Australian Standard)
- Unnecessary attachments
- Modifications (not to standard)

Pedestrian Safety


- Poor
- Marginal
- Acceptable
- Good

### Safety features continued

#### Driver Comfort

- Adjustable seating position
- Adjustable seatbelt height
- Adjustable steering wheel
- Sufficient head and leg room
- Good all round visibility with no obstructions/blind spots from the driver seat
- Easy to use instruments/controls e.g. cruise control, wipers

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#### P1 and P2 drivers under the age of 25 are restricted from driving high powered vehicles.

High powered vehicle restrictions apply in South Australia to help protect young drivers.

**High powered vehicles include:**

- For vehicles manufactured in or after 2010:
  - Any vehicle with a power-to-weight ratio greater than 130 kW/t
  - Vehicles with any modification to its engine performance
- For vehicles manufactured before 2010; vehicles with
  - 8 or more cylinders
  - A turbocharged or supercharged engine (except diesel powered vehicles)
  - Modifications to increase engine performance
  - Nominated high performance vehicles

**Fine and demerit point penalties apply.**

Visit [mylicence.sa.gov.au](http://mylicence.sa.gov.au) to read more information about the allowed and prohibited modifications.

You’ve done your research, you’ve shortlisted your cars and you’re aware of the safety features when you test drive a car.

The only thing left to do is negotiate your price.