

Used-truck buying checklist

A worksheet for records, questions and an independent inspection.

English | 10 September 2026

Identify the actual truck

Use one set per truck. Mark only evidence you have received and reviewed. A checked box is not a pass, certification or purchase recommendation.

Seller / stock reference		Visit date
Year / make / model		VIN - copy every character
Odometer reading + unit (km / mi)	Engine hours + source	

01 Capture identifiers and build records

- ☐ Match the VIN on the truck with the seller documents. Record any mismatch.
- ☐ Request the VIN-specific build sheet or chassis specification from the seller or OEM dealer.
- ☐ Ask a qualified person for readable engine and transmission tag photos when access is needed.

Identifier	Exact value / photo reference
Engine make / model	
Engine serial number	
Transmission make / FULL model code	
Transmission serial number	
Axle model / ratio, if relevant	

Record all letters, numbers and suffixes. A family name, gear count or badge alone is insufficient. Compare the original build with installed equipment and documented replacements.

02 Define the work this truck must do

Route / terrain / typical load	Body / trailer / PTO / sleeper needs
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Ask the dealer and independent inspector to assess the actual configuration for your work. This worksheet does not establish capacity or component compatibility.

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Review the paper trail

Request dated invoices and inspection reports, not only a statement that the truck was serviced. Write UNKNOWN where evidence is missing.

03 Collect evidence and flag gaps

Record to request	Received	Gap / date / document reference
Maintenance invoices and schedules	☐	
Engine / transmission repairs or replacement	☐	
Aftertreatment repairs and cleaning records	☐	
Brake, tire, steering and suspension work	☐	
Previous inspection reports	☐	
Prior work, idle / PTO use and storage	☐	

Match dates, VIN / component identifiers and recorded km / mi / hours. Ask the seller to explain changes of units, unexplained gaps and recurring repairs.

04 Reconcile the story

- ☐ Compare the latest service readings with the truck readings and earlier invoices.
- ☐ Ask an OEM dealer what VIN / serial-specific information can be shared, with permission as required.
- ☐ Record the scope and date of any dealer lookup; do not assume it includes every repair.
- ☐ Ask the dealer to check applicable recalls or campaigns and document the result.

Unexplained gaps, replacement parts or conflicting details

Who will clarify them / by when

A parts or manual lookup identifies information for equipment. It does not prove maintenance was performed or establish the truck's present condition.

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Plan the independent inspection

Book an independent shop or technician qualified for this truck and drivetrain. Agree on a written scope, safe access and a report before making the visit.

05 Agree on the inspection scope

Independent shop / technician	Date / written scope reference

- ☐ Installed identifiers and specifications compared with the records.
- ☐ Brakes, steering, suspension, tires, frame, coupling / body equipment and visible leaks.
- ☐ Engine, cooling, transmission and aftertreatment condition; relevant diagnostics and warning history.
- ☐ Any controlled road test or further tests the qualified inspector considers appropriate.

These are questions for the inspector, not instructions to service or test the truck. Have qualified personnel arrange access, diagnostic work and any road test.

06 Make unresolved items visible

Finding / evidence still needed	Next action / responsible person	Written estimate

My next step

- ☐ More evidence
- ☐ Further inspection
- ☐ Reassess this truck

Items to resolve before any commitment	Report date / limits / systems not checked

An inspection is a point-in-time assessment within its written scope. This worksheet cannot establish roadworthiness, detect every defect, guarantee future costs or approve a purchase.

Why these identifiers matter

OEM references support the identifier and original-build prompts. The worksheet structure is original; it is not an OEM inspection standard.

Cummins: serial-specific parts and manuals

Eaton: transmission tag and full model designation

DTNA: original parts and technical information

AI-assisted editorial and layout review; no independent mechanic or physical inspection.