

# Pre-delivery Inspection (PDI) & Check List

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You are obviously excited about the delivery of your new car, but WAIT! Many have paid a huge price for the resultant haste, and it's best to take some necessary precautions before driving away in your new machine.

Team-BHP enlists all that you should check for as a part of the pre-delivery inspection:

## Before Registration:

We recommend visiting the dealership's stockyard and checking your car prior to registration. Once it is registered in your name, there is little you can do. Check the car manufacturing month / year, especially when buying in the first quarter of any year ([Link to VIN Decoding Article](#)). Fiat India was notorious for selling cars that have been manufactured up to 18 months earlier. Ascertain that the year of manufacture is current, and the month is recent. Best way is to ask the dealer for the "Form 22" certificate (issued by the manufacturer). You will find the engine / chassis numbers on this certificate, while the month / year of manufacture are on the "road-worthiness" certificate (part of Form 22).

If the odometer is disconnected, in all probability, the allocated car has been used as a test-drive vehicle. Also check for any repair jobs / body damage; damage to some cars is inevitable in transit and most repair work is glaringly obvious.

**IMPORTANT:** Check the tax calculations on the dealership invoice. Overcharging for RTO / octroi / lifetime taxes is a popular scam at many Indian dealerships. Pay only the actual charges due to the authorities and not a rupee more.

## Preparations:

- Confirm: the date of delivery with your dealership. It is best to go there only after the car has been prepared and is ready. If you have a preference for a particular day / time (for auspicious reasons), inform the sales person.
- Daylight: We recommend accepting delivery in broad daylight, since the dark can conceal a lot. You may also not get good service in the evening since dealership personnel are in a hurry to wrap the day up.
- Documentation: Ascertain that you carry any required documentation with you. This may include forms, receipts etc.
- Payments: If any payment formalities are to be completed, carry along the relevant PDC's / Cash / Credit Cards.
- Third Person: It's always a good idea to take a relative / friend along for suggestions, observations and comments.
- Memories: Take a camera along.
- Music: Carry a CD / cassette if your car is equipped with a stereo.
- Gift: Take a token gift along for the sales guy.

## At the Showroom:

- Be Courteous: Don't bully around. It's a nice happy moment and the sales staff is as excited as you are. Treat them with respect, and you will get better service.
- Get a Demo - Part of the salesperson's job is to acquaint you with your new car's features and how each one operates. Ask him to demonstrate the car fully, and top to bottom, in order to understand how everything works on the vehicle.
- Visit the Service Department: We recommend meeting the service manager and getting familiar with the service centre facilities.

## Final Inspection:

- Check the car again: A lot could have happened between the pre-registration inspection and today. It's best to walk around the car and ascertain that the car is super clean! Look for any signs of repair work / damage such as paint difference, dents etc. Even the interiors should be squeaky clean.
- Check that all lights and electric accessories are working fine.
- Confirm that all the accessories you ordered are fitted on the car.
- Check that the spare wheel is fresh. And that all related tools (spanner, jack etc.) are present. Are there wheel locks? If so, ensure that the lug key is there in the car.
- Misc.: Wipers, floor matting, first-aid kit & hazard sign.
- What is the mileage on your car? It should not be more than a 100 km (or in the whereabouts) for most brands.
- Ensure that there is enough fuel in the car. At least to get you to the nearest petrol pump.
- Somehow, most new cars are delivered with over-inflated tyres by the showroom. Check the tyre pressure and make the necessary adjustments.
- Tally your car's registration number on the R.C. Book, with the number plate. Dealers are known for their carelessness here. One BHPian was about to take delivery of his car with different numbers on the front & rear plates!

## Documentation:

Read the paperwork! Don't take anybody's word for anything. Make sure all the blanks in the contract are filled in.

1. Invoice. (Check that the Chassis and Engine number of the car matches with the Invoice and / or Challan).
2. Sales certificate.
3. All payment receipts.
4. Registration book or temporary certificate (Some States). Is your name spelt correctly? Are the car chassis / engine number matching with the actual?
5. Insurance: Ensure that coverage is valid and active.
6. Original PUC certificate. This is valid for one year.
7. Owner's Manual.
8. Duplicate Keys.
9. Original warranty with all relevant dealership stamps.
10. Extended Warranty (If opted for).
11. Warranty of third party items such as battery, tyres etc.
12. Roadside assistance Contact details.
13. Business cards of dealership and service personnel.

Say Thanks to everyone and leave!

Credits: This thread has been heavily influenced by SMGs Comprehensive thread on PDI ([New Car Pre-Delivery Inspection List Part I, II, III and IV \(by Kishor Kulkarni\)](#)).