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Project Car Check List

With this checklist, we hope to help guide you through a safe project car purchase. Whenever possible, bring several knowledgeable friends along to aid you in your initial inspection. Individual factors that should influence your choice of project cars include personal ability or aptitude, finances, and what is to be expected from the new toy, i.e., driver, full resto, etc. A decoding guide will also be extremely helpful. It would be impossible to explain exactly where to look and what to look for on each model, so use this list as a common sense guide to making an educated decision.

BODY

Look for badly rusted, damaged or missing parts, excessive use of bondo and poor attempts at repairs. Check all gaps for hints of a twisted body, causing poor panel alignment. Scratched glass could be costly and/or time consuming. Trim can be hard to find and costly, too.

- ☐ Hood
- ☐ Quarter panels
- ☐ Grille
- ☐ Trim
- ☐ Roof/top
- ☐ Fenders
- ☐ Decklid
- ☐ Bezels
- ☐ Glass
- ☐ Rear shelf
- ☐ Doors/door frame
- ☐ Cowl
- ☐ Bumpers
- ☐ Rockers
- ☐ Tail panel
- ☐ Splash pans
- ☐ Jambs
- ☐ Lights
- ☐ Moldings
- ☐ Misc.

INTERIOR

Remember the four C's: correctness, condition, completeness and collectibility. Interior restoration is inexpensive compared with other areas, yet some dash pads and parts can be very expensive. Underdash wiring can really get butchered over the years, so take a long, hard look.