

Quick Reference Used Motorcycle Inspection

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BEFORE YOU GO

- **Check NADA**/local listings for value.
- **Run VIN**: Confirm title, year, & history.
- **Prep documents**: Bill of sale, title transfer info, insurance quote.

Ask the seller:

- Why selling? Maintenance/repair history?

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS

- **Visual Check**: Look for mismatched paint, zip ties, rust, or leaks.
- **Docs Review**: Verify title, service records, and accident history.

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FULL INSPECTION

Cold Bike Check

- **Oil**: Level, color, no metal particles.
- **Chain/belt**: Proper tension, no rust.
- **Tires**: Tread depth, cracks, age.
- **Suspension**: Smooth operation, no leaks.
- **Frame**: Straight, no welds or cracks.
- **Lights/signals**: Working, no exposed wires.

Startup/Test Ride

Startup:

- Cold start should be smooth.
- Smoke: Blue (oil), White (coolant), Black (fuel).

Test Ride:

- Brakes firm, gears shift smoothly.
- No pulling, grinding, or suspension clunks.

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MAJOR RED FLAGS 🚩

- VIN tampering or mismatched numbers.
- Frame damage or fresh welds.
- Leaks, burning smells, or crash signs (scrapes, bent parts).
- Inconsistent or missing maintenance history.

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NEGOTIATION TIPS

- Use inspection findings to lower the price.
- **Major issues? Walk away**: frame damage, engine problems, seller resistance to inspection.