How to Spot Transport Damage Before Accepting a Vehicle in Kushaiguda, Hyderabad

A new vehicle can look flawless from a distance and still have marks from loading, transit, storage, or unloading. The safest approach is to slow the handover down and inspect the car in good light before signing acceptance papers. A careful independent car PDI is about spotting anything that does not look factory fresh, then getting it recorded before the vehicle becomes yours to drive away.

Start with the paperwork and basic identity of the vehicle. Ask for the invoice, delivery note, insurance papers, registration documents, and any other vehicle documents the seller or dealership has prepared. Check that the chassis number and engine number printed on the documents match the numbers visible on the car. Look at the manufacturing date too, since a vehicle that has been stored for a long time may need closer attention to tyres, fluids, and battery condition. If any paper is missing or unclear, ask for it to be explained before moving on.

When reviewing the exterior, an independent car PDI works best when the car is parked on level ground in daylight. Wash marks can hide fine scratches, so ask whether the vehicle has just been cleaned or polished. Walk around it slowly and keep a sensible distance first, then move closer. From a step back, the overall stance of the car is easier to judge. One corner sitting lower, a bonnet that appears slightly raised, or a door that does not sit flush can point to panel alignment issues or something more serious.

Check the body before touching the car

Look along each panel from an angle. This makes dents, ripples, and uneven reflections easier to see. Pay attention to the bonnet, roof, doors, quarter panels, bumpers, and mudguards. Paint defects may appear as tiny chips, scuff marks, orange-peel texture, overspray, or a patch that reflects light differently from the panel beside it. A small mark near a door handle, wheel arch, or bumper corner can be easy to miss, yet these are common contact points during transport.

View the location on Google Maps

Check the panel gaps next. The space between the bonnet and headlamp, between the front and rear doors, and around the tailgate should look even for that model. A gap that suddenly widens, a door edge that protrudes, or a boot lid that sits crooked may suggest a knock or an assembly issue. Do not force panels open or shut. If a door feels stiff, or if the bonnet does not latch smoothly, stop and have it demonstrated by the seller or a qualified professional.

Bumpers deserve a close look because they often take the first scrape during loading. Run your eyes along the corners, lower edges, parking sensor areas, and fog lamp surrounds. Some bumpers are painted, some are textured, and some have glossy inserts. Each finish shows damage differently. A scuff on textured plastic may look like a pale rub, while paint damage on a painted bumper may show as a bright chip or a dull patch.



Look at glass, lights, and trim

Windshields, windows, mirrors, and lamps can be chipped by stones or knocked during transit. Check the windshield for star marks, hairline cracks, and chips, especially near the edges where small damage can spread. Look for scratches on side glass and the rear window. Tinted glass should have an even finish, with no bubbles, peeling edges, or uneven shading.

Exterior lamps should sit firmly in their housings. Check for cracks, cloudiness, moisture inside the lens, and missing caps around bulbs. A headlamp that is loose or misaligned may not be safe at night, and this is not something to fix by guessing. If a lamp looks damaged, ask the seller to arrange inspection or repair by a qualified professional before acceptance.

Trim pieces can also reveal transport damage. Door beading, window surrounds, roof rails, badges, grille elements, and lower sill trims should sit evenly. Loose clips may leave one end lifted. Missing badges or factory accessories should be listed and clarified rather than assumed. If the vehicle was advertised with particular factory accessories, ask for those to be checked against the documents or order sheet.

Inspect wheels and tyre condition

Tyres carry clues about both transport and storage. Check all four tyres, plus the spare if the model has one. Look at the sidewalls for cuts, bulges, scuffs, and deep scratches. A kerb scrape may be cosmetic, but a bulge or exposed cord is a safety concern and should be handled by a qualified professional. Check tread depth visually across the width of the tyre and look for uneven wear. Brand new tyres should still have their labels or fresh appearance, while older stock may show fine cracking or hardening.

Alloy wheels and steel rims should be checked at the edges and spokes. Transport damage often appears as a bright scuff on a rim lip or a small dent near the tyre bead. Do not confuse brake dust with damage, and do not try to repair a bent wheel on the spot. If the steering wheel seems off centre during a short, authorised test drive, or if the car pulls to one side, report it before accepting the vehicle.

Also look under the wheel arches. Splash guards, liners, clips, and suspension components should be firmly in place. A loose liner may flap while driving, and a missing clip can be a sign of a knock during unloading. Anything that looks bent, leaking, or unusually wet should be raised rather than ignored.



Check the interior for transit marks

Open the doors and inspect the entry points. Sill plates often pick up scuffs from shoes, bags, or protective covers used during transport. Seats, steering wheel, pedals, gear lever, door pads, and dashboard surfaces should look consistent with a new vehicle. Creases in leather, marks on fabric, or scratches on glossy trim should be pointed out immediately.

Use the power controls only in a normal way. Adjust seats, windows, and mirrors gently, and listen for grinding, loose movement, or uneven operation. Check that seatbelts retract smoothly and that the buckles latch cleanly without forcing them. Any issue with safety equipment is a matter for a qualified professional, not a DIY adjustment.

Look at the odometer reading and the fuel gauge. A delivery vehicle will naturally have some running-in distance, but the reading should be reasonable for the handover context. Ask the seller to explain any figure that seems high. Inside the cabin, check the infotainment screen, camera display, and other fitted systems only if they are already part of the vehicle. If an Android infotainment system, cameras, horns, bumpers, GPS units, seat covers, full mats, body covers, or other car accessories were requested separately, confirm what is factory fitted and what was added.

The Detailing Don Car Detailing & Car Decors Hyderabad is also on YouTube.

What to ask before you accept

Questions are part of the inspection, not an inconvenience. Ask what the delivery condition report says, whether any paint or dent repair has been carried out, and whether the car has been washed or polished before handover. If the answer is unclear, ask for the vehicle to be inspected again in better light. This is where an independent car PDI helps, because it keeps attention on the car itself rather than on the pressure to complete the paperwork quickly.

Check warning lights with the vehicle stationary and the ignition operated in the normal manner. Warning lights for engine, oil pressure, battery, brakes, airbags, tyre pressure, and stability systems should behave as the owner’s manual describes. Do not press, tape over, or bypass any warning indicator or safety switch. If a warning light stays on or appears unusually, ask for professional diagnosis before acceptance.

Fluid levels are another practical area. Check engine oil, coolant, brake fluid, and washer fluid only through the proper service points, and only if you know how to read them safely. Do not open sealed or pressurised parts, and do not top up or mix fluids unless the seller or a qualified professional confirms what is required. Discoloured fluid, low levels, or signs of leakage under the vehicle should be recorded and explained. Brake concerns in particular should be left to a qualified professional.



Record everything before signing

Keep a simple record of every mark, missing item, or unclear answer. Photos are useful when taken in good light, with one wider shot and one close shot for each concern. Note the date, the odometer reading, and the exact location of the issue on the car. Ask for remarks to be written into the delivery paperwork rather than relying on a verbal promise. If repairs or replacement parts are agreed, get the scope and timing clarified before you accept the vehicle.

Acceptance does not need to be rushed. If the vehicle has visible transport damage, incomplete documents, warning lights, loose trim, poor tyre condition, or unexplained paint defects, pause the handover. A small mark may be a minor finishing issue, while damage near a panel gap, lamp, wheel, or safety component may need proper assessment. The right decision is the one made after the car has been checked carefully and the findings are recorded in writing.

For details on automotive care services in the ECIL, Kushaiguda, and Secunderabad area, The Detailing Don is a Hyderabad automotive care studio offering car detailing, paint protection, coatings, washing, and car accessories. The Detailing Don Car Detailing & Car Decors Hyderabad is at Kushaiguda Rd, opp. Ratnadeep Super Market, Nagarjuna Nagar, ECIL, Shiva Sai Nagar, Kushaiguda, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Telangana 500062, India. Phone: +91 60099 60093.