Used EV buying checklist.

With an electric car, the **battery** is the big-ticket part. Check its health, its warranty and how the car charges before you talk price. Every brand is a little different, so confirm details for the exact car by VIN.

Year / make / model _____ VIN _____ Mileage _____ Date _____

1 Battery and range

THE BIG ONE

- [ ] Ask for a **battery health report** (from a dealer service visit or a scan tool) and keep a copy
- [ ] Charge to 100% if you can: compare the range shown with what the car was rated for when new
- [ ] Ask how the car was usually charged: mostly at home, or mostly DC fast charging
- [ ] Any battery warnings, reduced-power messages or charge limits set by the maker?
- [ ] Ask whether the high-voltage battery was ever repaired or replaced

2 Warranty and recalls

BY VIN

- [ ] **High-voltage battery warranty**: many makers cover 8 years / 100,000 miles from the original in-service date. Terms differ by brand
- [ ] Ask the maker or a brand dealer, **by VIN**, what coverage is left and whether it covers capacity loss
- [ ] Check open recalls at **nhtsa.gov/recalls**, especially battery recalls, and whether the remedy was done
- [ ] Any interim instructions from a recall, such as a charge limit or parking outdoors?

3 Charging test

PLUG IT IN

- [ ] Charge port opens, latches and charges with a public **Level 2** charger
- [ ] Try a **DC fast charger**: it starts, and the speed looks normal for that model
- [ ] Portable charging cable and any adapters are included
- [ ] Scheduled charging and charge-limit settings work in the car or app

4 On the drive

QUIET CAR

- [ ] Regenerative braking feels smooth; normal brakes feel firm
- [ ] No whine, hum or clunk from the motor or gearbox
- [ ] Climate control heats and cools well (it affects range)
- [ ] No 12-volt battery warning; the car wakes up and starts normally
- [ ] Tires: EVs are heavy, so check tread and even wear

5 Software and ownership

HAND-OFF

- [ ] Previous owner removed the car from their app account
- [ ] You can set up the app, phone key or key cards in your name
- [ ] Software is up to date; ask which connected services need a paid plan

6 Home and money

PLAN AHEAD

- [ ] Where will you charge? Outlet or Level 2 at home, work, or public. Renters: ask the landlord
- [ ] Get a quote from a licensed electrician if you need a home charger
- [ ] Get an insurance quote for this exact car

EV money in California (late 2026)

- Federal used clean vehicle credit: **not available** for vehicles acquired after Sept 30, 2025
- California CVRP rebate: closed to new applications in November 2023
- Clean Cars 4 All, income-qualified programs and utility rebates: check drivingcleanca.org and your utility; rules change
- Carpool-lane (CAV) decals ended Sept 30, 2025
- EVs don't need smog checks in California

General information checked October 2026; not legal, tax or financial advice. Programs and warranty terms change; confirm with the manufacturer, NHTSA and the program websites. Guide: irvineautosales.com/blog/used-ev-battery-health-check/

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Compare three used EVs.

One column per car. Fill it in as you go, then compare side by side.

	EV A	EV B	EV C
Year / make / model			
Price (see the listing)			
Mileage			
Battery health report			
Range shown at 100%			
Battery warranty left (by VIN)			
Open recalls			
DC fast charge tested			
Charging cable included			
Tire condition			
Insurance quote			
Where I'll charge			
Notes			

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