

Insurance 101

Used Car in Your Future?

A new car—even a used one—can cost you a pretty penny. So, you want to make sure you're making the right choice. Like with any big purchase, the right choice begins with educating yourself.

How will you shop? You can buy a car through private sources, such as friends or family. Or, you could shop through a franchised and independent dealer, leasing company, car superstore, or online service such as TrueCar.

Hit the books. Once you've picked out a car, you'll want to know its value before negotiating a price. Consider checking out the NADA Guides, Edmunds, Kelley Blue Book and Consumer Reports.

Brush up on its history. Has the car been in an accident? Is the reported mileage accurate? Did it have any repairs? You'll want to know everything you can about the car so you can determine if it's worth the cost. Sources like the Department of Justice's National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) can provide information about the car's title, odometer data and damage history.

Get an independent opinion. Consider hiring a mechanic to inspect the car before you buy it. This will give you an independent evaluation of the mechanical condition.

Take a test. Understanding the car's history and condition is important, but so is taking it for a test drive. You might discover something about the car that your research did not.

Let your agent know. Be sure to find out what paperwork is required before you take possession of the car. And don't forget to contact your Independent Agent; your agent will need to let your insurance company know so you have the protection you need for your valuable new investment.

The use of company names is for informational purposes only and does not indicate a relationship with Kemper nor an endorsement.

Sources: Federal Trade Commission's website, www.consumer.ftc.gov, dmv.org