

Used Nissan Qashqai inspection checklist

What to check on a used Qashqai or Dualis, what a problem looks like, and when to walk away.



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COVERS

Dualis (J10) 2007–2014

J11 2014–2022

J12 2022 on

☐ **Tick** it if it's fine. **Cross** it if it isn't, and note what you found so you can price it into your offer.

! **Safety critical:** affects how safely it drives or protects you in a crash. Best to have a mechanic check it before you buy.

\$ **Negotiate:** costs money to fix, from wear to major repairs. Get a quote and take it off the price.

0 Before you go

- ☐ **Get the VIN and rego** before you travel. A seller who won't share them is a red flag on its own.
- ☐ **Know what you're looking at:** petrol or e-POWER hybrid; manual or CVT; 2WD or AWD. Their checks below are marked.
- ☐ **Ask how it was used:** private, ex-rental or fleet; first car, short trips or city only?
- ☐ **Ask for the engine to be cold**, go in daylight, and bring a torch, paper towel and a friend.

1 Exterior

- ☐ **Panels and paint.** Uneven gaps, mismatched colour or overspray on seals and trim mean crash repair. **\$**
- ☐ **Hail and dents.** Look along the roof, bonnet and tailgate at a low angle to the light. **\$**
- ☐ **Bumpers and wheels.** Parking scrapes and kerbed alloys. A badly kerbed wheel can be bent, causing vibration. **\$**
- ☐ **Rust** on older cars: wheel arches, sills and the bottom of the tailgate. **\$**
- ☐ **Lights and glass.** All lights work, no condensation inside; windscreen free of chips in the driver's view. **\$**
- ☐ **Doors and tailgate** open, shut and lock cleanly from the remote; mirrors fold. **\$**
- ☐ **VIN plate** (in a door frame or under the bonnet) is there, untouched, and matches the papers.

2 Under the bonnet

- ☐ **Engine oil** between the dipstick marks, brown not black. Ask how often it's topped up between services. **\$**

- ☐ **Coolant** at the mark and brightly coloured. Rusty or oily coolant, or regular top-ups, needs a mechanic. **\$**
- ☐ **Brake fluid** (small tank at the back of the engine bay) is clear to light amber, not dark. **\$**
- ☐ **Belts, hoses and battery.** No cracked belts or swollen hoses. A weak 12V battery can stop a hybrid reaching "READY". **\$**
- ☐ **Leaks.** Wet oil on the engine is a leak. A freshly degreased engine on an older car can be hiding one. **\$**
- ☐ **Cold start.** Petrol: starts easily and idles smoothly, no rattle or smoke. Hybrid: "READY" shows; the engine may start and stop by itself. **\$**

3 Underbody and wheels

- ☐ **Tyre tread** above the wear bars, worn evenly. AWD models need four matching tyres; mismatched ones strain the AWD system. **\$**
- ☐ **Tyre age.** The 4-digit code on the side is the week and year made (2319 = week 23, 2019). Over ~6 years: budget for new ones. **\$**
- ☐ **Rust and crash repairs.** Rust on the floor or around the suspension; bent metal, fresh welds or new black coating in one spot. **!**
- ☐ **Drips** under the car, and oil stains where it's normally parked. AWD: no oil leaking from the rear axle. **\$**
- ☐ **Suspension.** Push down on each corner: it should bounce back once and settle. Oily shock absorbers leak. **\$**
- ☐ **Brakes.** Deep grooves or a raised edge on the discs mean they're due. **\$**
- ☐ **Exhaust.** Heavy rust, holes or loose heat shields that rattle. **\$**

! **Stay safe.** Never go under a car held up only by a jack, and never open the radiator or coolant cap on a hot engine. Keep hands, hair and loose clothing clear of fans and belts when the engine is running, and do checks under the bonnet with it switched off where you can. On the test drive, hold a current licence, confirm the car is registered and insured, obey road rules, and only brake hard when the road behind is clear. Meet in a safe, public-facing place, take someone with you, and don't carry large amounts of cash to a viewing.

4 Interior and electrics

- ☐ **Warning lights.** Key to "on": every dash light comes on, then goes out once running. An airbag, brake, engine or hybrid warning that stays on needs explaining. !
- ☐ **Seatbelts** pull out fully, retract and latch, with no fraying. !
- ☐ **Wear matches the kilometres.** Steering wheel, pedals, driver's seat and cargo area. \$
- ☐ **Air con** blows cold within a minute or two, without a musty smell. A damp headlining can mean blocked sunroof drains. \$
- ☐ **Electrics.** Screen, Bluetooth/CarPlay, cameras, sensors, windows and sunroof. Count the keys. \$
- ☐ **Cargo area.** Spare wheel or repair kit and jack present; lift the floor for water; rear seats fold and lock. \$

5 Test drive

- ☐ **CVT automatic.** Smooth, steady pull with no judder, surging, slipping or loud whine. A fault here is an expensive repair; ask when its fluid was changed. \$
- ☐ **Hybrid (e-POWER).** Moves off smoothly on electric power; the engine runs by itself to charge, which is normal. No surges or warnings. \$
- ☐ **Manual.** In 4th at 50 km/h, floor it: if revs rise faster than speed, the clutch is slipping. \$

- ☐ **AWD.** In a car park, drive slowly on full lock both ways: no clunking or juddering. \$
- ☐ **Brakes.** Firm pedal; stops straight with no pulling, pulsing or grinding. !
- ☐ **Steering and suspension.** Drives straight; no knocks over bumps. A hum that grows with speed is often a wheel bearing. \$
- ☐ **Afterwards,** check for new drips, a steady temperature gauge and no hot smells. \$

6 Documentation

- ☐ **Seller's ID** matches the rego papers, and the VIN matches on the papers and VIN plate.
- ☐ **Service history.** Logbook stamped on time, with receipts. Ask when the CVT fluid was last changed, if ever. \$
- ☐ **CVT repairs.** Ask whether the gearbox has been repaired or replaced, and get the paperwork. \$
- ☐ **Fleet or rental records.** Ex-fleet cars are often well maintained; ask for the log. \$
- ☐ **Warranty.** A newer Qashqai may still be under Nissan's new-car warranty. Check the start date and that servicing kept it valid.
- ☐ **Rego and roadworthy.** Rego checked online; roadworthy supplied if your state requires one on sale. \$

What this guide can't tell you about the Qashqai or Dualis you're looking at

6+

recalls on Qashqai and Dualis SUVs built since 2007*

22

common faults reported on Qashqai and Dualis SUVs built since 2007*

533

owner complaints on Qashqais (also sold as the Rogue Sport) built 2017–2022*

Money owing, stolen or a write-off?

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