Used Tesla Model Y inspection checklist

What to check on a used Model Y, what a problem looks like, and when to walk away.

COVERS **Original** 2022–2025 **Juniper** 2025 on

SHUFTI
shufti.com.au

☐ **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.

1 Exterior

- ☐ **Glass roof.** Look up through the glass roof panel from inside for cracks, chips or water staining around the edges. Any crack or stain means the full panel needs replacing, which is costly. Water stains at the edges mean the seal has failed and let moisture in. $
- ☐ **Wheels.** Walk around all four wheels looking for kerbed rims, cracks or flat spots on the alloy. A badly kerbed wheel can be bent. A bent wheel often shows up as a vibration through the steering at speed. $
- ☐ **Charge port.** Open and close the charge port flap and look inside the socket for dirt, moisture, burn marks or bent pins. Burn marks around the pins point to a poor connection that can damage charging equipment. $
- ☐ **Power tailgate.** Open and close the power tailgate several times and check it moves smoothly on both sides without stalling or reversing itself. A tailgate that stalls or reverses mid-stroke points to a worn motor or strut. $
- ☐ **Towbar.** If a towbar is fitted, check it and its wiring plug for rust, damage and secure mounting to the body. A loose towbar mount can mean hidden rear-end damage. $

2 Under the bonnet

- ☐ **Front boot shell.** Check the front boot area for even panel gaps, untouched bolts and no overspray on rubber seals, as this is the crash crumple zone. Fresh welds or new parts here usually mean a front-end crash has been repaired. !
- ☐ **12V battery.** Ask the seller when the small 12V battery was last replaced, as it needs periodic renewal separate from the main battery. A car with frequent screen reboots or a dead 12V alert may need this battery soon. $

3 Underbody and wheels

- ☐ **Underfloor battery.** Crouch down and look along the sills and floor for dents, deep scrapes, cracked covers or any leak under the battery pack. Any damage here should be checked by an EV specialist before you buy. $
- ☐ **Underbody repairs.** Look underneath for bent metal, fresh welds or patchy new underseal in one spot near the suspension mounting points. Mismatched coating in one area often hides a repaired crash. !
- ☐ **Suspension bounce.** Push down firmly on each corner of the car and let go; it should rise once and settle without bouncing again. Continued bouncing or an oily strut means a worn or leaking shock absorber. $

4 Interior and electrics

- ☐ **Dashboard alerts.** Open the alerts screen and check for any airbag, brake, steering, battery or drive-system warnings. Ask about anything shown. An open alert may mean an unresolved fault the seller hasn't disclosed. !
- ☐ **Battery range.** Charge to 100% and compare the range shown on screen with the range this version had when new. A big shortfall can mean a worn battery, so ask for a battery health report. $
- ☐ **Seatbelts.** Pull each seatbelt out fully and let it retract, checking the webbing for fraying and the buckle for a solid latch. Fraying or a buckle that doesn't click firmly is a safety risk in a crash. !
- ☐ **Key cards.** Check that the key cards provided actually unlock and start the car without delay. Missing or faulty key cards can be expensive to replace or reprogram. $

5 Test drive

- ☐ **Acceleration.** Accelerate firmly and check the pull feels smooth and strong with no stutter or sudden loss of power. On dual-motor cars, uneven pull front to back can mean one motor is underperforming. $
- ☐ **Drive noises.** Listen while driving at varying speeds; a faint hum is normal but a loud whine, grinding or clunk needs a specialist look. Noise that changes with speed rather than engine load often comes from the drive unit. $
- ☐ **Brakes.** Brake firmly from speed on a quiet road; the car should stop straight with a firm pedal and no pulling, pulsing or grinding. Pulling to one side can mean uneven pad wear or a sticking caliper. !
- ☐ **Suspension clunk.** Drive slowly over a speed bump or rough patch and listen for knocks or clunks from the front suspension. A clunk over bumps often means worn suspension bushings that will need replacing. $
- ☐ **Steering feel.** Drive on a straight, flat road and check the car tracks straight without wandering, pulling or play in the wheel. A wheel that needs constant small corrections may point to worn steering components. $

! **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.

5 Test drive continued

- [ ] **Driver assist braking.** With autosteer or traffic-aware cruise on, drive on a clear road and feel for any sudden, unprompted braking with nothing ahead. Unexpected hard braking for no visible reason can be jarring and even unsafe in traffic. $
- [ ] **Charging.** Plug the car into a charger and confirm it starts charging, the port light turns green and no error message appears. A charger that won't start or shows an error can point to a charging system fault. $

6 Documentation

- [ ] **Service history.** Ask the seller to show service visits and any battery or drive-unit repairs recorded in their Tesla app history. Gaps in the recorded history can hide unreported damage or deferred maintenance work. $
- [ ] **Battery warranty.** Check the start date and remaining kilometres on the separate battery and drive unit warranty, which runs longer than the basic warranty.
- [ ] **Account transfer.** Confirm the seller will remove the car from their Tesla account at handover so they can no longer unlock or track it.

What this guide can't tell you about the Model Y you're looking at

5+
recalls on Model Ys built since 2022*

4
common faults reported on Model Ys built since 2022*

7,104
owner complaints on Model Ys built since 2020*

Money owing, stolen or a write-off?
A tidy car can hide all three.

What's each fault worth?
Shufti's negotiation coach turns it into leverage.

A Shufti inspection covers all of that, plus:

- Guided checks for the exact car you're inspecting
- PPSR and government recall checks included
- Crosschecks 3M+ recalls and owner complaints
- Spots issues from your photos and audio
- Test drive routes with turn-by-turn navigation
- Negotiation coach with repair cost estimates

Get this free Tesla Model Y guide on your mobile.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Disclaimer. Shufti is not affiliated with or endorsed by Tesla. This checklist is general information only and is not professional, mechanical, legal or financial advice. It covers common checks, not every possible fault, and a car can pass every item here and still have problems. It is not a substitute for a pre-purchase inspection by a qualified mechanic, which is worth considering before you buy, especially if anything tagged Safety critical turns up. Repair costs vary widely; get your own quotes. Roadworthy, registration and transfer rules differ by state, so check with your state road authority. Private sales generally don't come with the consumer guarantees that apply when you buy from a dealer. You use this checklist at your own risk and, to the extent permitted by law, Shufti accepts no liability for any loss, damage or injury arising from its use.

* Shufti analysis, October 2026, of official recall notices, complaints lodged by vehicle owners with vehicle safety regulators, and independent reviews and owner forums. Faults are counted when two or more independent sources report them.

© 2026 Shufti. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Google Play is a trademark of Google LLC.