Used Toyota Aurion inspection checklist

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

COVERS **GSV40** 2006–2012 **GSV50** 2012–2017

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

- ☐ **Lights.** Turn on every light including indicators, reverse and brake lights and check each one works and the lenses are clear. Hazy or yellowed headlight lenses cut how far the light reaches at night. $
- ☐ **Panels.** Check panel gaps, paint colour and trim seals for unevenness, mismatched colour or overspray, which point to crash repair. Large sedans like this often pick up minor parking scrapes that are easy to miss. Overspray on rubber seals is an easy giveaway of hidden repair work. $
- ☐ **VIN plate.** Find the VIN plate in a door frame or under the bonnet and check it is undamaged and matches the rego papers. A re-riveted or re-stamped plate can point to a stolen or rebuilt car.
- ☐ **Windscreen.** Check the windscreen in the driver's line of sight for chips or cracks. A chip in the sightline can fail a roadworthy inspection.

2 Under the bonnet

- ☐ **Engine oil.** Pull the dipstick and check the oil sits between the marks and looks brown rather than black or gritty, and check how much has been topped up recently. A level that keeps dropping between services points to the engine burning oil. $
- ☐ **Coolant.** Check the coolant reservoir is at the mark and the coolant looks clean, not rusty or milky. Pink crusty residue near the front of the engine can mean a leaking water pump. $
- ☐ **Brake fluid.** Check the brake fluid in the small reservoir at the back of the engine bay is clear to light amber, not dark. Dark, murky fluid means it hasn't been changed in a long time. $
- ☐ **Belts.** Look over the drive belts for cracking, fraying or glazing without touching anything while the engine runs. A cracked belt can fail without warning and strand you on the road. $

3 Underbody and wheels

- ☐ **Structural rust.** Look under the car for rust on the floor or around the suspension mounts, and check for any bare or flaking metal. Rust here can weaken the car in a crash and is costly to repair properly. !
- ☐ **Suspension.** Push down hard on each corner of the car and let go; it should bounce back once and settle, not keep bouncing. Oily residue on the shock absorber body means it is leaking. $
- ☐ **Brakes.** Look through the wheel spokes at the brake discs for deep grooves or a raised outer edge. A lip you can feel with a fingernail means the discs are due for replacement. $
- ☐ **Tyre wear.** Check tread depth on all four tyres is above the wear bars and wears evenly across each tyre. Wear on one edge only usually means the wheels are out of alignment. $

4 Interior and electrics

- ☐ **Warning lights.** Turn the key to "on" without starting; every dash light should come on then go out once the engine is running. An airbag, brake or engine light that stays on needs an explanation before you buy. !
- ☐ **Seatbelts.** Pull each seatbelt out fully and let it retract, checking the webbing for fraying and the buckle for a solid latch. A belt that doesn't retract smoothly may not hold properly in a crash. !
- ☐ **Dashboard surface.** Look over the dashboard top and feel it for stickiness, bubbling or a melted-looking texture, especially near the windscreen edge. A sticky or bubbling dash is costly to fully fix and worsens with sun exposure. $
- ☐ **Trim rattles.** With the engine idling, press lightly on dash and door trim panels and listen for rattles or squeaks. A squeak that comes and goes with road bumps usually means a loose trim clip, not a structural problem. $
- ☐ **Electrics.** Test the stereo, air con, windows, mirrors and any Bluetooth or screen functions, and count the keys you're given. Missing keys or a dead screen are common and costly to replace. $

5 Test drive

- ☐ **Automatic gearbox.** Accelerate gently from a stop and through each gear, feeling for any shudder, flare in revs or delayed shift. A shudder or hesitation around light throttle can mean a failing torque converter. $
- ☐ **Brakes.** Brake firmly from speed on a quiet road; the car should stop straight without pulling, pulsing or grinding. Pulsing through the pedal usually means warped discs. !

! **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

- [ ] **Noises at speed.** Drive at highway speed on a quiet stretch and listen for any humming or droning that changes with speed. A hum that grows louder with speed is often a worn wheel bearing. $

6 Documentation

- [ ] **Seller's ID.** Check the seller's photo ID matches the name shown on the rego papers, and that the VIN on those papers matches the VIN plate on the car.
- [ ] **Service history.** Ask for the logbook and receipts showing services done on time, and ask when the gearbox fluid was last changed. A gearbox fluid that's never been changed raises the risk of shift problems later. $
- [ ] **Registration status.** Check the car's registration status online to confirm it is current, and ask for a roadworthy certificate if your state requires one for sale. An unregistered or soon-to-expire car adds cost and delay before you can drive it home. $

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

3+

recalls on Aurions built since 2006*

7

common faults reported on Aurions built since 2006*

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 Toyota Aurion guide on your mobile.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Disclaimer. Shufti is not affiliated with or endorsed by Toyota. 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, November 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.