Used Toyota Yaris Cross inspection checklist

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

COVERS **XP210** 2020 on

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☐ **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

- ☐ **Rust.** Check the wheel arches, sills and tailgate edge for bubbling paint or rust spots. Rust starting at a seam usually means water has been sitting there for years. $
- ☐ **Panel gaps.** Walk around the car and check panel gaps are even on both sides and the bonnet and doors sit flush. Uneven gaps can point to past crash repair. A wider gap on one side only is a telltale sign of panel replacement. $
- ☐ **Roof rails.** If roof rails or a roof box mount are fitted, check they're secure with no cracked plastic or loose bolts. Roof-mounted loads can stress the mounts and roof skin over time. Cracks around the mount base suggest overloading or impact. $
- ☐ **Exterior lights.** Turn on every light including indicators and the reversing light, and check lenses aren't cracked or fogged with moisture. A foggy lens can mean a failed seal letting water in. $

2 Under the bonnet

- ☐ **Engine oil.** Pull the dipstick and check the oil sits between the marks and looks brown, not black or gritty. A low level between services can mean the engine is burning oil. $
- ☐ **Hybrid coolant tank.** Hybrid: find the second, smaller coolant tank for the hybrid inverter and check it's filled to its mark. An empty tank here can overheat the hybrid electronics. $
- ☐ **Coolant.** Check the main coolant tank is at the mark and a clean colour with no crusty residue nearby. Crusty deposits often point to a slow leak. $
- ☐ **12V battery.** Check the 12V battery terminals are clean, free of corrosion and ask when it was last replaced. A corroded or old battery can leave you stranded or cause electrical glitches. Hybrid models rely on this smaller battery to start the whole system, so a flat one strands the car. !
- ☐ **Cold start.** Start the car from cold and listen for a smooth idle with no rattle. Hybrid: press start and wait for the ready indicator before moving off. A rattle on cold start can mean worn internal parts. $

3 Underbody and wheels

- ☐ **Tyres.** Check all four tyres are above the wear bars, worn evenly and of similar age and brand. AWD (E-Four) models need four closely matched tyres to avoid straining the drive system. Uneven wear across one tyre can also point to a wheel alignment problem. $
- ☐ **AWD driveline.** AWD (E-Four): crouch down and check underneath for oil weeping around the rear motor area. A leak here points to a costly drivetrain repair. $
- ☐ **Underbody rust.** Look under the car for rust on the floor pan or around suspension mounts, and for fresh welds or a patch of new coating. A shiny patch among otherwise dirty metal can hide crash repair. !
- ☐ **Rear suspension.** With the car on level ground, push down firmly on each rear corner and listen as it rebounds. A clunk or creak over this movement is worth noting before you buy. Clunking over small bumps during the test drive points to the same issue. $

4 Interior and electrics

- ☐ **Warning lights.** Turn the ignition on and check every dash light comes on then goes out once the car is running. A brake, airbag or hybrid system light staying lit needs explaining before you buy. !
- ☐ **Seatbelts.** Pull each seatbelt out fully and let it retract, checking it latches firmly with no fraying. Fraying webbing means the belt may not hold properly in a crash. !
- ☐ **Infotainment screen.** Turn on the touchscreen and check it responds quickly, pairs with Bluetooth and shows the reversing camera clearly. A screen that freezes or won't pair can be costly to fix. $
- ☐ **Hybrid battery vent.** Hybrid: check the battery cooling vent, usually near the rear seat, is clear of dust, pet hair and clutter. A blocked vent can overheat and shorten the hybrid battery's life. $

5 Test drive

- ☐ **Brakes.** Brake firmly from a safe speed and check the car stops straight with a firm, consistent pedal and no grinding. A pedal that feels spongy, sinks slowly or needs pumping is worth walking away from. !

! **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

- [ ] **Hybrid drive.** Hybrid: pull away on electric power and feel for the petrol engine joining in smoothly, with no surging or warning lights. Jerky handover between electric and petrol power can mean a hybrid system fault. $
- [ ] **CVT gearbox.** Accelerate firmly from a stop and feel for the engine note rising smoothly with speed, not flaring or holding high revs without the car speeding up. A flaring, rubber-band feel under hard acceleration can mean a tired CVT. $
- [ ] **AWD on full lock.** AWD (E-Four): in a car park, drive slowly on full steering lock both ways and listen for clunking or juddering. Juddering on tight turns is a warning sign of a binding drive system. $
- [ ] **Steering feel.** Drive at a steady speed and check the steering feels centred and doesn't pull to one side. A pull to one side can mean alignment or suspension wear. $

6 Documentation

- [ ] **Service history.** Check the logbook is stamped on time with matching receipts for every service. Gaps in the history can hide deferred maintenance. $
- [ ] **Hybrid battery reports.** Hybrid: ask the seller for any hybrid battery health check reports from past services. Toyota's extended hybrid battery warranty depends on these checks being done.

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

2+

recalls on Yaris Crosses built since 2020*

3

common faults reported on Yaris Crosses 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.

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* 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.

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