

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED CHECKLIST



ABOVE & BEYOND

LAND ROVER SANTA FE



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When buying an automobile, you could go the new or used route. Did you know, though, that there's a third option?

That would be a certified pre-owned (CPO), which is available at almost every car dealership. Below, we'll go over exactly what a CPO vehicle is and the steps it goes through to get certified. Then, we'll cover what kind of benefits you get as an owner of this type of automobile.

Read through the detailed information below, then contact your local dealership for a look at their CPO inventory.

What Is a Certified Pre-Owned Vehicle?

A certified pre-owned vehicle is a type of used car. It's been inspected, refurbished, and then certified by a manufacturer.

Often, CPO cars are just a few years old (some no more than five or six years old). They also don't go beyond a certain number of miles, like 70,000 or 80,000.

Furthermore, these cars go through a detailed inspection and reconditioning process. Once they're approved, they'll come with a long list of benefits, including a manufacturer-backed warranty.

Therefore, you can enjoy driving around in a pre-owned car that's highly dependable and fits your lifestyle.



Certified Pre-Owned Inspection Checklist

As we mentioned above, a used car needs to undergo an extensive multi-point inspection before it can become certified pre-owned. This is done by a certified technician who goes through every part of the vehicle with a fine-toothed comb.

Below is a sample of what the tech will check for before the car can get a CPO seal of approval.

Vehicle Exterior	OK	Repair/Replace	N/A
1. Body and paint			
2. Windshield Condition			
3. Wipers/condition of mechanism/blades			
4. Fuel cap/door working properly			
5. Side/rear windows condition			
6. Exterior mirrors condition			
7. Grille/trim/molding condition			
8. Doors open and close properly			

Engine Area	OK	Repair/Replace	N/A
9. Hood releases and locks properly			
10. Engine oil level and condition			
12. Cooling system fluid level and protection level			
13. Transmission system condition and fluid level			
14. Washer fluid level			
15. Air filter(s) condition			
16. Timing belt condition			
17. Drive belts condition			

Vehicle Interior	OK	Repair/Replace	N/A
18. Veneer, wood, leather, and headliner condition			
19. Fit/condition of glovebox, console box, and trim			
20. Sun visor and vanity mirror operation			
21. Condition of seats			
22. Condition of seat belts			
23. Interior door handle operation			
24. Condition/operation of all mirrors			

Electrical Systems	OK	Repair/Replace	N/A
25. Window operation			
26. Seat adjustments and memory function			
27. Clock(s)			
28. Horn(s)			
29. Cigarette lighter and power sockets(s)			
30. All speakers			
31. Alarm system			
32. Warning chimes			
33. Parking sidelights and headlamps			
34. Taillamps			
35. Brake lights			

Benefits of Buying CPO

A great reason to go the certified pre-owned route is to get a car that fits your budget but is still in newer condition. So, if you wanted a higher end car with all the bells and whistles, you may have a better chance of getting that with a CPO vehicle.

Additionally, we mentioned that each car gets a detailed inspection. While the number of points in the inspection varies by manufacturer, you can rest assured that every square inch of that automobile has been looked at carefully.

Then, if any part of the car has to be replaced, it'll be done with genuine OEM parts. Since these are the same types of parts used to build the car, it'll fit that model perfectly and help keep it in peak performance for a long time.

After the vehicle becomes a certified pre-owned one, it'll come with a long list of benefits. They can include:

- A limited warranty
- Free vehicle history report
- Satellite radio
- Roadside assistance

With these perks, you can have great peace of mind while also having fun driving around town.



Buying a Certified Pre-Owned Car

Now that you know what makes a certain car CPO, you may wonder how to go about buying one.

The process is pretty straightforward, following the same steps as if you were buying a new or used car.

Step 1: Create a Budget

First you'll want to have a budget in mind, to determine what type of vehicle to get. Take your total expenses for the month and subtract it from your monthly income. Whatever is left over is a good basis to start from. Just remember to also factor in things like gas, insurance, and maintenance.

Step 2: Know Your Credit Score

Once you have a budget set, you'll want to look into your credit history. This can help determine what finance options you'll have come buying time.

Your credit history shows a timeline of how you spend your money. It can include things like:

- Number of loans
- Number of credit cards
- Payment history

There are three major credit bureaus that look at your history: Equifax®, Experian®, and TransUnion®. They'll take that information and your credit score. This number typically ranges from 300 to 850 and will determine what type of auto loan you'll get.



Step 3: Pick Out a Car

After you've looked into your credit history, you'll want to think about what kind of car you're going to get.

Consider what you'll mainly be using the CPO vehicle for. If it's mainly solo commutes to work, a fuel-efficient coupe or sedan may do the trick. If you have a family or want lots of cargo room, an SUV might work better. You may instead want a tough and capable truck, for going off-roading or heading from one job site to another.

By addressing all these thoughts, you can better narrow down your options. However, the most ideal way to know which car is right for you is to test drive a few. Once you've gotten a feel for different models' performances and features, you'll know which one will become your next new ride.

Step 4: Start the Buying Process

When you've picked out your ideal automobile, you'll want to visit your dealership's finance center to get things started.

They'll go over the budget that you created in Step 1 and come up with a payment plan that you're happy with. Then, they'll reach out to local banks and lenders. By utilizing the relationships that they have with various businesses, you can get an auto loan with terms you're happy with.

If you prefer, you can actually start this process from the comfort of home. Most dealerships have secure finance applications right on their website. You just fill out some information about yourself, submit it, and the finance center will take care of the rest.



Start Shopping for a CPO Automobile Today

After reading up on certified pre-owned cars, we're sure you're eager to get one for yourself. In order to do that, contact your local dealership. The staff members will be happy to help pick out a vehicle that fulfills your wants and needs as a driver. Then, they'll guide you through step of the buying process to make things as easy and streamlined as possible.

Don't wait. Start shopping for a CPO vehicle today!

