

# Used Chinese Scooter Inspection Checklist

What to check before handing over money, in the order you can check it, including the paperwork problems specific to these machines.

**DO THIS SECTION FIRST. IF IT FAILS, WALK AWAY.**

A machine you cannot register is worth its scrap value however well it runs. Numbers and paperwork before mechanics, every time.

**1 • NUMBERS AND PAPERWORK**

- ☐ VIN found on the machine and written down in full
- ☐ VIN on the machine matches the VIN on the title exactly  
Character by character, not at a glance
- ☐ Title or registration document present, in the seller's name
- ☐ Engine number found and recorded
- ☐ Emission label present and legible
- ☐ No sign of grinding, filing or restamping around any number
- ☐ Seller can explain any mismatch, and the explanation is checkable

**STOP SIGNS**

No title and no explanation. A VIN that is 16 characters when it should be 17. Numbers that have been ground off or restamped. A seller who will not let you photograph the VIN. Any of these, walk away — and if you believe a vehicle is stolen, report it rather than negotiating over it.

**2 • COLD START — YOU ONLY GET ONE CHANCE**

- ☐ Engine is genuinely cold when you arrive  
Put a hand on the cylinder before the seller reaches for the key
- ☐ Starts on the button without excessive cranking
- ☐ Kickstart works too, if fitted
- ☐ Idles without needing the throttle held
- ☐ No blue smoke after the first few seconds  
Oil
- ☐ No white smoke that persists once warm  
Coolant, on a liquid-cooled engine
- ☐ No rattling, knocking or ticking that changes with revs
- ☐ No fuel smell or visible leak

**3 · ENGINE AND DRIVETRAIN**

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- ☐ Oil level correct and the oil is not black sludge or milky
- ☐ No oil weeping from the case joints or the base of the cylinder
- ☐ Exhaust is solid, not blowing at the flange
- ☐ CVT engages smoothly rather than snatching
- ☐ No belt squeal or judder pulling away
- ☐ Air filter present and not soaked in oil
- ☐ Coolant level and colour, if liquid cooled

**4 · BRAKES, TYRES AND WHEELS**

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- ☐ Front brake firm, not spongy, and does not pull to the bars
- ☐ Rear brake works and is adjustable
- ☐ Pads or shoes have visible material left
- ☐ Discs not scored or lipped
- ☐ Tyres have tread and no sidewall cracking
- ☐ Tyre date codes are not ancient
- ☐ No play in the wheel bearings when rocked
- ☐ Wheels true, no dents in the rims

**5 · CHASSIS AND ELECTRICS**

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- ☐ Forks do not weep oil and are not pitted
- ☐ Rear shock is not leaking
- ☐ Steering turns lock to lock without notchiness
- ☐ No cracks or amateur welding on the frame
- ☐ Bodywork mounts intact, panels not held on with tape
- ☐ All lights, indicators, brake light and horn work
- ☐ Speedometer and odometer work
- ☐ Battery holds charge — restart it after the test ride
- ☐ Ignition and steering lock both work with the key supplied
- ☐ Two keys, ideally

**6 · TEST RIDE**

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- ☐ Pulls away without hesitation

## USED CHINESE SCOOTER INSPECTION CHECKLIST

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- ☐ Reaches a sensible speed for its size without flat spots
- ☐ No surging or cutting out at steady throttle
- ☐ Runs straight with hands lightly on the bars
- ☐ No vibration through the bars or floor that changes with speed
- ☐ Restarts hot

## DECISION

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ASKING PRICE

WHAT IT NEEDS

WHAT YOU OFFERED

DATE SEEN

NOTES

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### Need to work out what you actually own?

The Scooter Parts Registry is a free public record of the Chinese factories behind US-market scooters, ATVs and go-karts — brand, engine family, VIN prefix, factory and related machines. No account, no email.

[thescooterparts.com/identify](https://thescooterparts.com/identify)