

Ask Ronny

by Ronny Shaver @ Ronny's Garage

Answering Your Questions About Classic Car Care Service And Restoration

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Why Should I Pay For A Pre-Purchase Inspection?

by Ronny Shaver

Buying a Rolls-Royce or Bentley can be an exciting experience. The beautiful lines of the cars, rich luxurious leather and stunning wood trim are alluring to say the least. One's imagination fast forwards to visions of pulling up to a traffic stop and having the driver next to you say "pardon me, would you happen to have any Grey Poupon?" while you smugly open the cubby, produce a jar of the iconic condiment and say "Why Certainly!" Ok, I know that's a stretch but I'm trying to make a point. Emotions play a significant part in the purchase of a Rolls-Royce or Bentley, especially if it is the first one. One's natural tendencies are to overlook minor flaws and enhance strong points during the purchase process. Sometimes we drive a car and are so excited that we also overlook peculiarities detected during the test drive. We will also sometimes ask about these peculiarities and get somewhat suspicious but also somewhat believable answers concerning the items discussed. But so many times excitement overrides reason during an automobile purchase. After purchasing a car and driving it home, we will make mental notes of things to check looking forward to many enjoyable miles and good times with our new "baby". We have visions of the car in perfect condition with maybe just a little elbow grease.

Well, at least that's my story. Unfortunately, many times the car begins to become a "fright pig" after later inspection. Those minor cosmetic flaws that we thought would just need a little touch-up turn into major hidden body work and perhaps the car has been severely damaged during its lifetime. Sometimes after the car is taken to the repair shop to address some of those "peculiarities" noticed during your test drive one finds out that the car needs major mechanical work that wasn't included in the "somewhat believable" answers from the previous owner. Just recently I have had more than a few "proud new owners" find out that their new purchase needs major and expensive work, just to be safe to drive!

My recommendation is to have a car inspected by an experienced Rolls-Royce or Bentley mechanic before the car is purchased. If an owner selling a car is not keen on the process, then wait for another car to come around. It is very important to have the brake system, suspension and steering systems checked out thoroughly since they are safety items. I hope I'm not scaring anyone, but I have seen so many disasters I want to help prevent more if possible.

Now granted, not all purchase turn out bad. But a few hundred dollars to inspect a car before it is purchased is much better than thousands after without inspection.

Thank you for the questions and keep them coming. Please send your questions to Ronny at ronnyshaver@ronnysgarage.com.

Happy Motoring!
Ronny