



## Tips:

### How to determine if a used car has had prior paint work

Just because a car has had paint work does not necessarily mean it is going to be a problem for you in the future. When shopping for a car, there are a few ways to determine if it has had prior paint work.

Body shops will typically tape off (mask) a panel before painting it. To determine this, you simply run your finger along the door jam. If you can feel a ridge it means that the panel has been painted, in the industry we call this a tape line. You will want to repeat this process on all the panels, the hood, the fenders, and of course the trunk. Another way to determine paint work is if the body shop has not done a good job of masking and has resulted in “overspray” on the moldings.



Sometimes panels have to be removed and remounted. You can tell if the fenders have been removed or replaced if the paint on the mounting screws is chipped off. Also most cars have VIN stickers on all the panels, if you come across a panel without a VIN sticker it may mean that the panel was replaced.



Just because a car has had paint work I wouldn't be leery of it. I'm sure you have or know someone that has needed paint work on a car, some minor and some major. With these tips you are able to detect paint work, because not always is it reported on a Carfax vehicle history report. Now it is up to you to determine if the repair work affects the value of the car (ex: repaired rock chips on hood) or will cause further problems.

If you have any questions or concerns, Please contact me for this or any automotive needs.