

# Is Your Car Ready for Its Ontario Safety Inspection?

Use this guide to arrive prepared, know what inspectors look at, and understand what matters — and what doesn't — when it comes to getting your Safety Standards Certificate.

## When Do You Need a Safety Standards Certificate?



### Buying or selling a used car

Required when transferring ownership to or from someone other than a spouse.



### Registering a vehicle from another province or country

Vehicles imported from outside Ontario need a certificate before registration.



### Registering a rebuilt vehicle

Any vehicle with a rebuilt status requires a fresh safety inspection.



### Upgrading from 'unfit' to 'fit' status

Vehicles previously deemed unfit must pass an inspection to return to the road.

You **DO NOT** need a certificate if:

#### Transferring to a spouse

No certificate needed for spousal transfers.

#### Off-road vehicles & snowmobiles

These vehicle types are exempt from the SSC requirement.

## What Inspectors Look At

Ontario's licensed inspection stations check all of the following areas. This isn't a DIY checklist — it's a heads-up so you know what's being evaluated.



#### Brakes

Pads, rotors, lines, and brake fluid condition



#### Windshield & Wipers

Cracks, chips, and wiper functionality



#### Lights & Reflectors

Headlights, taillights, signals, and brake lights



#### Seats & Seatbelts

Condition and proper function of all restraints



#### Tires & Wheels

Tread depth, condition, and proper mounting



#### Frame & Body Structure

Structural integrity and safety-critical bodywork



#### Steering

Steering mechanism, linkage, and play



#### Mirrors

Presence and condition of required mirrors



#### Suspension

Ball joints, springs, and alignment



#### Fuel System

Leaks and secure mounting



#### Exhaust System

Leaks, damage, and proper routing



#### Instruments

Speedometer calibration and dash warning lights

## Common Reasons Cars Don't Pass



### Bald Tires

Tread depth of 2 mm or less — tires must be replaced before a certificate can be issued.



### Worn Brake Pads

Shoe lining at or below 1.6 mm will need to be replaced.



### Exhaust Leaks

Any crack or leak in the exhaust system — not just around joints — must be repaired.



### Suspension Issues

Ball joints or springs past their prime, or alignment height differences of 25 mm+.



### Steering Problems

Excessive play or worn components in the steering mechanism.



### Windshield Damage

Cracks or chips larger than 13 mm diameter in the wiper area, or cracks extending 50 mm+ into the wiper zone.

## Things That Won't Fail Your Inspection



### Minor soot or small leaks at exhaust joints

Normal at connection points — not the same as a crack or exhaust leak.



### Small windshield cracks outside the wiper area

Cracks longer than 50 mm are fine if they're outside the wiper zone.



### Scratches and dings

Cosmetic damage doesn't affect vehicle safety — it won't count against you.



### Surface rust

Light surface rust with no structural impact is not a fail condition.

## What to Bring to Your Appointment



### Vehicle ownership / bill of sale

Your technician will record the VIN and confirm ownership details.



### Your keys (all sets)

Some checks require the car to be running or moved within the bay.



### Any known issues

The more you tell us upfront, the faster and more accurate the inspection.



### About 1–2 hours

Most inspections take between 60 and 90 minutes, longer if repairs are needed.

# Ready to Book Your Inspection?



## 613-728-1908



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