

# Questions to ask before buying a used van

## ***“Do you have the logbook?”***

This question is vital. If the vehicle does not have a logbook, this should raise alarm bells.

Ensure the logbook credentials match the van (registration number, owner's name, vehicle classification)

## ***“Do you have the service history?”***

A prudent vehicle owner should always keep a service history for the vehicle. A vehicle with a service history is more likely to have been cared for.

If you can obtain the service history you can see when the last service was (if it was a long time ago, you may well be in for a nasty surprise).

## ***“What did the previous owner use the van for?”***

Most used vans will be retired work-horses. ie. construction, carpentry, electrician, etc.

Understanding what the previous owner did can help you know how much love was given to the vehicle - was it a sole trader or larger company?

Ideally you want a van that drove longer distances (across counties / countries), rather than shorter stop-start distances in cities. The more a van stop-starts, the more wear and tear is put on the vehicle.

## ***“What is the mileage and age of the used van?”***

These two things are intrinsically linked. A new van with a heap of mileage will have been put under far more strain than an older van with the same mileage.

As a general rule of thumb, try to source a van with <100,000 km on the clock.

## ***“Why are you selling the van?”***

Are you buying someone else's problems?

## ***“Has the van ever been in an accident?”***

A bad crash can have a lasting impact on a vehicle.

## ***“Has the van got it's MOT or equivalent (Mandatory vehicle inspection in Europe)”***

This is very important. If the van does not have its MOT, you will have to put your hand in your pocket to pay for it yourself. It will also be very likely that repairs will be needed in order to

pass the MOT (which you will also have to pay for)

A van with an MOT certificate is a very good thing.

***“Has the van got an up to date tax disc?”***

If the van doesn't have a tax disc you will need to put your hand in your pocket to pay for this year's tax (and potentially back tax!)

***“Is the used van registered in a foreign country?”***

If the van is registered in a foreign country you could be in for a hefty tax bill for importing it when you buy it (Vehicle Registration Tax). Better to buy local.

***“Is the used van registered in a foreign country?”***

“Hmm, the van looks really nice - I'd love to buy it, but the price is too high for me unfortunately... The max I could afford is X”.

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Check the van on a website like [autocheck.com](https://www.autocheck.com)

**Has the van got any finance on it?**

Take care here! There could be an unpaid loan on the van which you are about to purchase. That loan will become yours to pay if you buy it.

**Is the van stolen?**

Don't buy a stolen van. Obviously... You will lose the van and all the money you spent when the police come knocking.

**How many previous owners has the van had?**

Figuring out what a vehicle has been used for by the previous owners will help you get a feel of the current state of the vehicle.