Buying a hybrid checklist

For hybrids and plug-in hybrids. Take it to the test drive and the dealer.

evpick.com.au

Car and variant _____ Dealer _____ Date _____

1. Your driving

- [ ] **Your usual week's kilometres** and how much is stop-start city driving: that's where a hybrid saves the most fuel.
- [ ] **Plug-in hybrid?** Where you'd charge it at home, and how much of your daily driving its electric range covers.
- [ ] **The fuel it needs**: some models need premium unleaded. Check the fuel flap or the owner's manual.
- [ ] **How often you tow, take long trips or carry a full load**: check the braked towing capacity.
- [ ] **Run your numbers** at evpick.com.au to see what it costs to run.

2. On the test drive

- [ ] **Drive in traffic and on the highway**: notice how smoothly the engine starts and stops.
- [ ] **Plug-in hybrid? Try it on electric only**, and see what range the car shows when charged.
- [ ] **Check the boot with your actual gear**: the battery can raise the floor or take the spare tyre's place.
- [ ] **Test the driver-assist features** and use the screen while parked.
- [ ] **Check rear visibility and the reversing camera**

3. Costs to compare

- [ ] **The drive-away price in writing**
- [ ] **Real-world fuel use**: owners often see more than the official figure, especially on the highway.
- [ ] **Servicing costs and intervals**: capped-price servicing, and whether it's yearly or by kilometres.
- [ ] **Insurance quotes**
- [ ] **Plug-in hybrid? Home charging cost**: a power point may be enough, or price a wall charger.
- [ ] **Novated lease quote**: plug-in hybrids lost the FBT exemption for new leases from 1 April 2025.

4. Warranty and the battery

- [ ] **Hybrid battery warranty**: years, kilometres and any conditions, like servicing on time.
- [ ] **Who services it near you**
- [ ] **Roadside assistance**
- [ ] **Check for recalls** at vehiclerecalls.gov.au.

5. Before you sign

- [ ] **Confirm the exact variant and colour**

- [ ] **Delivery date and what happens if it's late**
- [ ] **Trade-in value in writing**
- [ ] **Plug-in hybrid? Which charging cable comes with it**

> **Tip:** a plug-in hybrid only saves money if you charge it most days. If you can't charge at home, a regular hybrid is often the cheaper choice.

Notes