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Would you buy a car without actually seeing it 'in the metal'? Many do, it seems...

Published: May 16, 2019

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Online version: <https://www.wheels-alive.co.uk/would-you-buy-a-car-without-actually-seeing-it-in-the-metal-many-do-it-seems/>



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London, May 2019 - The rise of car portals offering comprehensive information online as well as access to stock and trusted dealerships from across the country has contributed to an increased number of cars being bought sight unseen, according to an analysis by **AA**



Cars, the AA's used car website.

The number of drivers buying cars which they haven't set eyes on in person now stands at a one in 10 (11%) as more people place their faith in online portals giving them access to dealers across the country - underlining the fact that consumers are increasingly willing to put aside previously-held reservations about used dealerships in the hunt for a car that best suits their needs.

The AA-Populus poll of 19,350 drivers found that whilst historically the majority of drivers have only paid for vehicles after seeing what they're buying, millions of UK consumers would change their habits and pay for cars they haven't already looked at in person if they were more confident of the history and quality of the car.

More than half of Brits (52%) that haven't bought sight unseen previously, for example, say they would be more likely to do so if it had been examined by a pre-sale vehicle inspector from a trusted brand first.

Other factors that would see consumers more likely to embrace buying blind include dealers being upfront and providing clear information about their right to cancel (48%), a significantly discounted price (44%) and knowing that the dealer was associated with a trusted body (44%).

Additionally, 37% of buyers would be more likely to spend on a car they hadn't seen first if there were more pictures, videos and information about the vehicle online.

James Fairclough, CEO of AA Cars comments:

"A decade ago, the idea of buying a car without seeing it in person was highly unusual.

These days, consumers are much more comfortable with buying valuable products they haven't seen first - namely due to the sheer volume of listing information and all-angles pictorial evidence that is provided by respected portals online, making a prospective buyer



feel like they have practically kicked the tyres themselves.

Services, like our own, now aim to reinforce consumers' faith in the whole buying process with the association of a trusted brand such as the AA, comprehensive details on the car's service history, availability of pre-sale vehicle inspections and an after-sale mediation service, through which dealers and customers can resolve issues that come to light following a sale.

Buyers can also increasingly feel at ease as they are sheltered by the Consumer Rights Act of 2015 which gives them a 'right to return' a car if it develops a fault in the first thirty days of ownership - or to ask for a repair in the first six months after it was bought.

All of this has helped to contribute to an environment where drivers feel more comfortable spending on a vehicle they haven't seen, but essentially feel they know intimately, despite not encountering it in the flesh.

It's worth noting that if you are thinking about buying online, it's always good to consider asking for a car to be inspected before you do."