

FREE BUYER'S GUIDE

2016 Toyota Corolla Axio

A simple guide for buyers with no car knowledge.

Your safety comes first

Please read these five rules before you look at any car.



1. Flat ground, handbrake on

Only look at the car on level ground.



2. Never open the radiator cap

Hot coolant can spray out and burn you.



3. Never go under the car

Look underneath from the side only.



4. Hands away from a running engine

The fan and belts can catch fingers and clothing.



5. Test drive only with permission

Bring your licence and drive gently. Ask the seller: "Does your insurance cover me to drive it?" If it doesn't, you could have to pay for any damage yourself.

How this guide works

Two stages. No rush.



Do most of the work **from home, on the phone**. Only go and see the car if you like what you hear.



Stage 1

At home and on the phone



Checkpoint

Is it worth a visit?



Stage 2

At the car

Scoring is easy

Tick **Yes** or **No**. Yes is always the good answer. At the end, just **count your No's**. A red  means a stop sign: a "No" there matters most.

STAGE 1**Before you visit**

At home and on the phone.

01**Which 2016 Corolla Axio is it?**

There are four different ones.



Pages disagree on which petrol engine a 2016 automatic has. The code is on the engine and in the Japanese papers. The hybrid is a different model and is not covered here.

Ask the seller:

"Can I see the papers that show the engine code?"

**1.5L petrol
(1NZ-FE)****1NZ-FE**

Engine code
1NZ-FE · Super
CVT-i
automatic, or
5-speed
manual in
some grades

- Front engine, front-wheel drive
- Automatic gearbox called Super CVT-i
- Timing chain

**1.5L petrol
4WD (1NZ-
FE)****1NZ-FE 4WD**

Engine code
1NZ-FE · Super
CVT-i
automatic

- Model code NZE164 is the 4WD
- The 1.5G W×B 4WD went on sale in May 2016
- Automatic gearbox called Super CVT-i

**1.5L petrol
(2NR-FKE)****2NR-FKE**

Engine code
2NR-FKE ·
Super CVT-i
automatic

- Some pages list this engine with the automatic
- The pages disagree, so check the engine code
- Drive type is not stated, so check the papers

**1.3L petrol
(1NR-FE)****1NR-FE**

Engine code
1NR-FE · Super
CVT-i
automatic

- Listed for the 1.3X grades
- Automatic gearbox called Super CVT-i
- Drive type is not stated, so check the papers

Good to know: safety rating

This car was not sold new in Australia, so we found no ANCAP rating. ANCAP says small batches of grey imports cannot be rated. It needs at least four of the same make, model and variant. We did not find confirmed airbag, ABS or stability control details, so none are listed.

02

The big-money items

The parts that cost the most to fix.



You can't see inside these parts, but you can ask about them.

\$ under \$500 · \$\$ \$500 to \$2,000 · \$\$\$ over \$2,000 (rough guide)

**CVT gearbox** ALL SUPER CVT-I AUTOMATIC VERSIONS

\$\$\$

WHAT IT IS

A CVT is a gearbox with no fixed gears. Its fluid needs its own service.

ASK

"When was the CVT fluid last changed, and is there a record?"

**Timing chain** 1NZ-FE ENGINE

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WHAT IT IS

The chain keeps the engine's valves in step. Some pages say it can stretch and rattle at high kilometres.

ASK

"Does the engine rattle on a cold start, and has the chain ever been worked on?"

**Engine oil use** 1NZ-FE ENGINE

\$\$\$

WHAT IT IS

One page says oil use can rise at high kilometres. It points to worn piston rings or valve seals.

ASK

"Does it use oil between services, and how often do you top it up?"

**Oil leaks and crankshaft sensor** 1NZ-FE ENGINE

\$\$

WHAT IT IS

One page says leaks often start at the rear main seal or timing chain cover. Oil on the sensor can cause stalling.

ASK

"Is there any oil under the car, and has the rear seal or sensor been replaced?"

03

Regular maintenance

Cheap jobs that protect the expensive parts.



Look for these on the service invoices.



Engine oil

Fresh oil and a new oil filter

As shown in the logbook



Spark plugs

They light the fuel in a petrol engine

As shown in the logbook



Brake fluid

The fluid that carries your foot's push to the brakes

Every 2 years (our guide)



Coolant

Keeps the engine from getting too hot

As shown in the logbook



Gearbox oil (CVT fluid)

The oil in the automatic gearbox. It needs its own service

As shown in the logbook



Air filter

Cleans the air going into the engine

As shown in the logbook



Tyres

Check the age and tread, and the wheel alignment

Replace at 6 years old, even with good tread (our guide). Alignment every 10,000 to 15,000 km (our guide)



Battery

Starts the engine and powers the electrics

Most last about 3 to 5 years

04

Questions to ask on the phone



Tick Yes if you get the good answer.

Ask the seller	Good answer	Yes	No
"Is it registered in your name?" Why: Only the owner can legally sell it to you.	"Yes."		
"Why are you selling it?" Why: A clear reason helps you trust the rest of the story.	A clear reason.		
! "Can you send me the chassis number?" Why ask? The chassis number is the car's ID number, like a fingerprint. With it you can check that the papers match, look for money owing under the local rules, and search for recalls (Section 06). An honest seller will send it.	They send it.		
"Has it been in an accident?" Why: Repairs can hide damage. An invoice shows it was fixed properly.	"No", or they have the repair invoice.		
"Does it have service invoices?" Why: They show the car was looked after.	"Yes."		
"Can I see the auction sheet and the Japanese papers showing the engine code and kilometres?" Why: It lets you check the engine code and the kilometres against the car.	Yes. The papers show the engine code and kilometres, and they match the car.		
"When was the CVT fluid last changed, and is there a record?" Why: CVT fluid is the main upkeep item for this gearbox.	A date and a receipt or logbook stamp.		
"Does it use oil, and is there any oil under the car?" Why: Oil use and leaks are the things reported on the 1NZ-FE engine.	It uses very little oil, and the ground under it stays dry.		
"Are any warning lights on?" Why: A light means the car has found a fault.	"No."		
"Can you leave it cold before I arrive?" Why: Some problems only show when the engine is cold.	"Sure."		

Tip

Write down what they say. See if the answers stay the same when you visit.

05

Check the invoices

Ask the seller to send you photos.



Ask the seller:

"Could you send me photos of the service book and invoices?"

Looking at the invoices

Yes No

Did they send them?

Does each one show the workshop name, date and kilometres?

Do the kilometres go up each time?

Do the services follow the logbook, with no gaps of more than a year?

Words you might see on an invoice

Invoice says

It means

CVT fluid service

The gearbox oil was changed.

Timing chain

The chain that keeps the engine's valves in step.

VVT-i

The system that changes when the engine's valves open. Its part can be noisy on cold starts.

Rear main seal

The oil seal at the back of the engine. It is a known weak spot on the 1NZ.

Crankshaft position sensor

It tells the computer the engine's speed and position. If it fails, the car may stall or not start.

Throttle body clean

Build-up was cleaned from the air inlet. Build-up can cause an unsteady idle.

06

Quick checks at home

All you need is the chassis number. Five minutes.



1. Recalls

Type the chassis number into either site:

toyota.com.au/toyota-recalls

toyota.jp/recall

vehiclerecalls.gov.au

Safety recalls are fixed for free by the maker. Helpline 1800 987 366.

2. Money owing

Search the chassis number at:

ppsr.gov.au

It shows money owing, write-offs and theft. Small fee. Check again on the day you pay.

Your result

Yes

No

 **PPSR is clear**

No open recalls, or proof they were fixed

Checkpoint: is it worth a visit?

Count your No's from Sections 04, 05 and 06.



My No's

Stop signs with No



Any stop sign with a No?

Don't go yet. Sort it out with the seller first.

0 to 2

Go and look

Take Stage 2 with you.

3 to 5

Ask more first

Ask the seller about each No. Go if you're happy.

6 or more

Is it worth the trip?

A lot couldn't be confirmed.

The decision is always yours.

Want to check it like a mechanic?

The 2016 Toyota Corolla Axio Buyer's Inspection Guide shows you every check, step by step, with drawings of where to look.

Get the full guide · \$29

General information only, not an inspection of any vehicle. "Our guide" means our recommendation, not a legal rule. Costs are a rough guide. Information current at October 2026: always check the chassis number yourself.

Perth Cars Pre-Purchase Inspection Service · ACN 612 731 996 · Licence Nos. LVS/WSS MR20570 · MS30917 · 0451 237 048 · info@autolab360.com · perthprepurchaseinspection.com

STAGE 2**At the car**

Take this guide with you.

07**Dashboard warning lights**

The colour tells you how serious it is.

**Red = Stop**

Serious

**Yellow = Check**

Needs a look

**Green = OK**

Just information

The one-minute light test**1****Key on**

Lights come on. Good!

2**Start the engine**

Lights go out.

3**Watch**

Any light left on? Ask about it.

**Check engine**

Engine fault found.

**Battery**

Not charging.

**Oil pressure**

Low oil. Stop the engine.

**Engine too hot**

Overheating. Stop.

**Brake**

Handbrake on, or a brake fault.

**ABS**

Anti-skid brake fault.

**Airbag**

Airbags may not work.

**1. Paint and panels****GOOD**

Same colour everywhere, even gaps.

ASK ABOUT IT

One panel a different colour.

**2. Engine code****GOOD**

The code on the engine matches the code on the Japanese papers.

ASK ABOUT IT

"Which engine is this, and where is that shown on the papers?"

**3. Oil under the car****GOOD**

The ground under the engine is dry, with no wet oil patches.

ASK ABOUT IT

"Has any oil leak been fixed, and do you have the invoice?"

**4. Tyres****GOOD**

Even wear. The 4 numbers on the side (like **2319** = 2019) show under 6 years old.

ASK ABOUT IT

Worn on one edge, cracked, or 6+ years old.

**5. Cold start****GOOD**

Starts quickly. Any smoke clears in a minute.

ASK ABOUT IT

Hard to start, rattles, or keeps smoking.

**6. Test drive****BEFORE YOU DRIVE**

Seller says yes, their insurance covers you.

GOOD

Goes straight. Smooth gears. Firm brakes.

ASK ABOUT IT

Pulls to one side, clunks, or a warning light.

4WD check

Only on gravel or grass, never on a sealed road. The green 4WD light should come on, then go off.

09

Your scorecard

Tick Yes or No, then count your No's.



At the car	Yes	No
Engine was cold when I arrived		
! chassis number on the car matches the rego papers		
Seller's answers were the same as on the phone		
Paint even, no bubbly rust		
Sits level		
Tyres look good and are under 6 years old		
! Light test passed		
! Started easily, smoke cleared		
Windows, locks and air-con work, two keys		
Drives straight, smooth gears, firm brakes		
! No warning light on the drive		
Is there a record of the CVT fluid being changed?		
Does the engine code on the car match the Japanese papers?		

My No's

____ / 13

Stop signs with No

What your count means



Any stop sign with a No?

Stop. Don't pay a deposit until it's sorted.

0 to 1

Looks well cared for

Many buyers still get a mechanic to check inside the engine.

2 to 3

A few questions

Ask the seller, and ask a mechanic what each No might cost.

4 to 6

Lots of unknowns

Get a mechanic to look before you pay anything.

7 or more

Many warning signs

Take your time and get advice first.

The decision is always yours.