# Car Underbody Inspection

This playbook provides a step-by-step guide to safely conduct a do-it-yourself (DIY) inspection of a car's underbody. It is designed to help car owners identify rust, damage, and other potential issues that can affect a vehicle's integrity and safety.

### Step 1: Preparation

Gather all the necessary tools and safety equipment. You will need a flashlight, gloves, safety glasses, and a creeper or cardboard to lie on. Ensure your car is parked on a flat, level surface, in a well-ventilated area, with the parking brake engaged.

### Step 2: Elevate

Carefully raise your car using a hydraulic jack and secure it with jack stands. Never rely on the jack alone for support. Verify that the vehicle is stable before proceeding.

### Step 3: Inspect Rust

Start at one corner of the vehicle and inspect for rust. Use the flashlight to look at the wheel wells, undercarriage components, and the exhaust system. Note areas with surface rust or corrosion.

### Step 4: Check Damage

Continue to check for any signs of damage such as dents, cracks, or bent components. Pay special attention to the suspension, drivetrain, and fuel lines.

### Step 5: Identify Leaks

Look for any signs of fluid leaks. Check if there are any wet spots or drips on the underbody. Different fluids (oil, coolant, brake fluid) may indicate different types of issues.

### Step 6: Examine Wear

Examine areas subject to wear and tear including rubber bushings, seals, and boots. Check for any loose or missing fasteners.

### Step 7: Document

Take notes or photographs of any issues that you find during the inspection. This will help you to remember what needs to be addressed or to communicate with a professional mechanic if necessary.

### Step 8: Lower Vehicle

Once the inspection is complete, carefully remove the jack stands and lower the vehicle back to the ground using the hydraulic jack. Remove all tools and equipment from under the car.

## General Notes

### Safety First

Always prioritize personal safety when working under a vehicle. Use proper safety equipment, ensure the car is securely elevated, and never work alone.

### Professional Assessment

If you discover serious issues, consider getting a professional mechanic to further assess and repair your vehicle to ensure it is safe to drive.