

Your Inspection Checklist

Look, Listen and Feel

These are basic guidelines and areas consumers should focus when going to check out pianos - remember to bring a notepad. Also, if you don't play piano it's important to bring along someone that does.

1. Inspect the piano's finish - look for nicks, scratches, etc.
2. If the piano is used, look to see if the finish is crackled or bleached by the sun.
3. Listen to the room the piano is in and think of the room in your house where the piano would go. Are they acoustically the same or dissimilar? The sound of the room affects how the piano sounds.
4. Play each key 1-88. Make sure each key works. Write down any key that doesn't.
5. Check the pedals - see if the right sustain pedal sustains the notes and the left pedal softens the notes.
6. Find the break - play across the break and listen for consistent/ inconsistent tone).
7. Play across the break all the way up to note 88. Listen for buzzes, areas of no tone and notes that sound like 2 notes in 1.
8. Play (or have a friend play) the piano. Do you like the feel of the action (is it too light, too heavy or just right)? Can you control dynamics? Do you like the piano's overall sound?