

Used Metal Detector Buying Checklist

Inspect the coil, shaft, controls, battery, accessories and seller details before buying a second-hand detector.

What's inside

- ✓ Clear, practical steps you can use straight away
- 📄 Written for real UK detecting, not theory
- 📄 Plain-English guidance, checked against official sources
- ☆ Free to print, keep and share



Written by
detectorists



Checked against
UK guidance



Free to print and
keep

✓ Seller & provenance

- ☐ Confirm the exact model and version
- ☐ Serial number and proof of purchase
- ☐ Warranty status and whether it transfers
- ☐ A stolen-item or manufacturer check where possible

🔧 Physical condition

- ☐ Coil ears and cable undamaged (the fixings and lead that hold and connect the coil)
- ☐ Shaft wear, locks and grip
- ☐ Control box and screen clear
- ☐ No signs of water ingress

⚡ Functional test

- ☐ Test on known targets in air and, where permitted, in safe ground
- ☐ Check falsing (false or erratic signals)
- ☐ Headphones, wireless, buttons and ports work
- ☐ Ask the seller to demonstrate a factory reset, or agree to it

📄 Payment & handover

- ☐ Exact included items agreed in writing
- ☐ Battery health, charger and spares availability
- ☐ Use buyer-protected payment
- ☐ Avoid off-platform or 'friends and family' payments

Do not reset someone else's detector without agreement. A factory reset can wipe a seller's saved programs. Ask them to demonstrate it, or agree the reset together.

☆ Test before money changes hands

A quick test over known targets reveals most faults that photos never show. For current pricing, see the guides on DetectoristWorld.com.

This resource is provided for general information and personal record-keeping. Rules, official guidance and access arrangements can change. Check the current requirements for the place where you intend to detect.

Get more free metal detecting guides, templates and practical advice at DetectoristWorld.com.