

Ford Focus 1.0 EcoBoost Mk4

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: The oil pump wet belt is the key concern. Ford never services it, so ask for oil change records and check the oil spec matches WSS-M2C948-B.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Recall status (multiple exist)

The early Mk4 had many safety recalls: brake pedal bolt, front suspension bolts, seatbelt anchors, wiring loom chafe. Contact a Ford dealer with the VIN to confirm all are completed.

Service records and oil spec

Look for oil changes every 12 months or 10,000 km using Ford spec WSS-M2C948-B. The oil pump wet belt degrades faster with wrong oil or skipped changes. No stamps means higher risk.

MOT / inspection history

Check for repeat advisories on suspension, brakes, or emissions. A pattern of failed emissions tests can point to a clogged petrol particulate filter (GPF), which is expensive to replace.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

Standard sizes are 205/60 R16 or 215/50 R17. Check tread depth and uneven wear. Inspect all four wheel arch edges for paint bubbling or rust, especially the rear arches near the taillights.

Coolant level and colour

The expansion tank is on the left side of the engine bay. Coolant should be between the min and max marks and appear clean orange or pink. Brown or milky coolant can point to head gasket trouble.

Cold engine start

Ask the seller not to warm up the car before you arrive. On a cold start, listen for rattling or ticking in the first 30 seconds. A brief rattle that fades is normal; persistent noise is not.

Infotainment screen (SYNC 3/4)

Tap all corners of the touchscreen and check that it responds without delay. Try Bluetooth pairing and navigation. On pre-2022 cars with SYNC 3, a black or frozen screen points to a faulty module.

DURING THE DRIVE

GPF regeneration warning

Drive for at least 20 minutes. Watch for the message "Exhaust filter limit reached" on the dashboard. Ask the seller how often this appears. Frequent warnings suggest the car was used mostly for short trips.

Rear brake squeal when reversing

Reverse slowly and brake gently. A loud squeal from the rear is a common Mk4 issue caused by missing anti-squeal shims. It is fixable for around 50 to 100 euros but worth knowing about.

Engine temperature stability

The temperature gauge should settle at the midpoint and stay there. Any fluctuation or creeping toward hot can point to a failing thermostat or water pump, which risks warping the aluminium head.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Compact hatchback, built 2018-2025. Improved over the Mk3 but the oil pump wet belt and GPF clogging need attention.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

Oil pump wet belt

Sheds fibres, can starve engine of oil
€800-2,500

GPF clogging

Fills quickly on short trips
€200-1,500

Head gasket / cooling

Aluminium head warps from overheating
€400-2,500

mHEV battery drain

12V battery dies after 1-2 weeks parked
€200-600

Wheel arch corrosion

Rust on arch edges within 3-5 years
€400-1,600

