

Ford Kuga 1.5 EcoBoost Mk3

2020-present · 1.5 EcoBoost Dragon (150 hp) 3-cylinder turbocharged petrol

carchecker.pro

Est. annual maintenance cost: €800-1,400

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: Two fire-risk recalls affect most Mk3 Kugas. Confirm both are completed before visiting, as the fuel injector recall still has no permanent fix.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Recall status (two fire-risk recalls)

Contact Ford with the VIN to confirm both the fuel injector recall (R/2023/080, builds Jul 2019-Dec 2022) and the oil separator recall (22S21, builds Aug 2021-Mar 2022) have been completed.

Service records and oil changes

Ford recommends oil changes every 12 months or 15,000 km. Look for consistent intervals and check whether the water pump has been replaced, which is recommended around 70,000 km.

MOT / TUV history

Review past inspection results for any repeated advisories. Brake disc corrosion and suspension wear are common flags on Kugas that were driven mostly in town.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

Standard sizes range from 225/65R17 to 225/55R19 depending on trim. Check tread depth, tyre age (date codes on sidewall), and look for uneven inner-edge wear, which can point to alignment issues.

Cold engine startup

Start the engine from cold. The 3-cylinder has a slight vibration at idle, which is normal, but listen for knocking or metallic rattling in the first 30 seconds that could point to injector or timing issues.

Coolant level and condition

The coolant expansion tank is on the left side of the engine bay. Check that the level sits between the min and max marks. Milky or discolored coolant can point to water pump or head gasket problems.

Dashboard warnings after ignition

Turn on the ignition and wait 30 seconds before starting the engine. Watch for an 'Emergency Call Malfunction' warning, which points to a known eCall software issue. A dealer update typically resolves it.

DURING THE DRIVE

Engine response and hesitation

Accelerate firmly from low revs. Any hesitation, stumbling, or rough running at low speeds can point to carbon buildup on the intake valves, which is common from around 60,000 km on direct-injection engines.

Infotainment system stability

Use the SYNC 3 touchscreen during the drive. Navigate through menus, test Bluetooth or CarPlay, and watch for any freezing or screen blackouts. A brief blackout can point to a software or APIM module fault.

Transmission and gear changes

If it is an automatic, pay attention to gear changes at varying speeds. Shifts should be smooth with no jerking or delayed engagement. Manual models should have a light, precise clutch with no judder.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Compact SUV built on the Focus Mk4 platform, on sale since 2020. The 3-cylinder Dragon engine is generally solid, but two fire-risk recalls make pre-purchase verification essential.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

Fuel injector cracking

Fire risk, recall R/2023/080

€0-500

Water pump failure

Plastic impeller, 60,000-100,000 km

€400-800

Carbon buildup on valves

Direct injection, from ~60,000 km

€350-600

eCall system fault

TCU software, dashboard warning

€100-500

Oil separator damage

Recall 22S21, fire risk

€0-300

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