

Volkswagen Golf 1.5 eTSI Mk8

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: The engine itself is proven. Focus on the two things bolted onto it: the DQ200 dry-clutch DSG and the 48V mild hybrid electronics. Cars from 2022 onward are notably more sorted.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Recall status (3 campaigns)

The Golf 8 had recalls for the eCall emergency system, side airbag sensors, and infotainment software. Contact a Volkswagen dealer with the VIN to confirm all three are completed.

Service records and DSG oil

Look for consistent service history. Volkswagen calls the DSG oil a lifetime fill, but changing it every 60,000 km significantly reduces gearbox issues. Ask if this has been done.

Infotainment software version

Early Golf 8 cars had serious touchscreen problems (freezing, black screens, lag). Software version 3xxx or later resolves most of these. Ask the seller which version is installed.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

Standard size is 205/55 R16. Check tread depth, sidewall damage, and tyre age (four-digit date code on the sidewall). Look for uneven wear on the front tyres, which can point to alignment issues.

Cold start and 48V system

Start the engine fully cold. The dashboard should show no warning lights once the startup sequence finishes. Listen for smooth idle. If 48V-related warnings appear, the mild hybrid battery or wiring may need attention.

Infotainment responsiveness

Tap through the touchscreen menus, test Bluetooth and Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. Watch for lag between taps (should respond within a second). Any freezing or random reboots points to a hardware fault.

12V battery condition

The eTSI uses both a 12V AGM battery and a 48V lithium-ion battery (under the passenger seat). A weak 12V battery causes cascading errors in the 48V system. Check the date sticker on the 12V battery.

DURING THE DRIVE

DSG behavior in slow traffic

Drive at low speeds in stop-and-go conditions for at least 10 minutes. Feel for jerky shifts between 1st and 2nd gear, hesitation when pulling away from a stop, or clunking sounds. These can point to clutch or mechatronic wear.

Low-RPM smoothness

Accelerate gently between 1,200 and 2,000 RPM. The 1.5 TSI is known for a "kangaroo effect" where power delivery feels uneven and jerky. A software update fixes most cases, but some cars still show the issue.

Engine-off coasting and restart

On the highway at 80-120 km/h, lift off the throttle and let the car coast. The engine should shut off (coasting mode). Press the accelerator again and check that the engine restarts smoothly, without delay or hesitation.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Mild hybrid Golf, on sale since 2020. The 1.5 TSI engine is proven, but the DSG gearbox and 48V electronics add ownership complexity. 2022+ cars with updated software are the safer buy.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

DQ200 DSG clutch/mechatronic

Jerky shifts, hesitation, limp mode

€800-3,500

48V battery / system

Hybrid warnings, reduced function

€400-1,500

MIB3 infotainment

Freezing, black screen, lag

€0-1,500

Kangaroo effect

Jerky low-RPM power delivery

€0-300

Carbon buildup

Rough idle from ~80,000 km

€400-800

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