NA Mazda MX-5 inspection checklist

Free printable checklist from Miatapedia (miatapedia.info). Tick as you go; write notes on the right.

Paperwork and history	
☐	Seller is the registered owner; ID matches the documents
☐	VIN / chassis number matches the registration and the car
☐	Service history and receipts available
☐	Clean title / no outstanding finance (check locally)
☐	Mileage plausible against wear on seats, pedals and steering wheel
Rust: check carefully	
☐	Rear wheel arches - Inside and outside
☐	Sills/door frames - Along the bottom edge
☐	Front crossmember - Structural component
☐	Rear subframe - Where suspension mounts
☐	Door frames - Around window seals
☐	Battery tray - Under hood, driver's side
Body and roof	
☐	Panel gaps even; paint shade consistent on all panels
☐	Soft top: fabric, seams and rear window condition; roof raises and lowers smoothly
☐	No water stains or damp smell inside; drain paths clear
Under the car and bonnet	
☐	Oil, coolant, brake fluid and power-steering leaks
☐	Fluids at the right level and not contaminated
☐	Cold start: no unusual noises or smoke
Test drive	
☐	Gearbox: all gears engage, no grinding, clutch bites normally
☐	Steering straight, no vibration under braking
☐	Brakes pull straight; no clunks over bumps
☐	All gauges, warning lights, lights and indicators work

Sources: Miatapedia NA buying guide. Not a substitute for a professional inspection.