Quality and Equipment

In brief:

- High standard of materials and build quality
- High standard specification compared to most other premium brand rivals – including alloy wheels, performance audio system with CD, electric windows, DSTC and an abundance of Volvo safety features
- Premium Sound system available with Dolby Pro-Logic II Surround
 Sound with 4x75w amplifier, 6xCD and 12 speakers
- Menu system on centre stack allows driver to personalise security and audio settings
- Intelligent Driver Information System (IDIS) fitted as standard
- DVD-based Road and Traffic Information System (RTI) available
- Three year/60,000 mile warranty and 12 year anti rust perforation

A passion for premium quality lies at the heart of the Volvo brand, which is reflected in the choice of trim materials and the outstanding build quality.

The minimum standard specification is equally impressive — making the Volvo V50 much better value than most other premium brand rivals - and includes Volvo's unique Intelligent Driver Information System (IDIS), which reduces the risk of driver distraction by delaying the delivery of non-essential information in high stress situations.

Owners wishing to personalise their car are offered a wide range of accessories and options, including a Premium audio upgrade with Dolby Pro Logic II surround sound, or alternatively, there's Volvo's DVD-based Road and Traffic Information System (RTI) that covers all of Europe.

Peace of mind is provided by a comprehensive warranty and anti rust perforation package.

In full:

A passion for high quality lies at the heart of the Volvo brand. It is inherent not only in the build quality that reflects the ruggedness, durability and reliability for which the marque is renowned, but also in the choice of body and trim materials. From the exquisite free-floating centre instrument stack to the discreet 'theatre lighting', the Volvo V50 exudes a feeling of quality and well being. The switchgear has a solid, chunky feel and the fascia is awash with soft-touch plastics, reminding occupants that they are enjoying a premium product.

Customers in the premium sector don't compromise and they expect a high level of luxury equipment. Thankfully, the all-new Volvo V50 does not disappoint. The specification of the S model includes Electronic Climate Control with Volvo's Interior Air Quality System (IAQS), all-round electric windows, remote central locking, electric/heated door mirrors, alloy wheels and a performance audio system with CD, 4x25w amplifier and six speakers.

Volvo V50 customers who require even more luxury are offered the 'SE'. This model upgrades the specification of the 'S' to include leather upholstery, larger 17in alloy wheels, the choice of (real) aluminium, wood-effect or transparent 'Iced Aqua' finish for the centre dashboard stack, an upgraded high performance audio system with 4x40w amplifier, 6xCD (in dash) and eight speakers, steering wheel audio controls, an auto dimming rear view mirror, rain sensor, cruise control, grocery bag holder, front fog lights, a trip computer and body colour side mouldings.

Every model also features Volvo's new Intelligent Driver Information System (IDIS). A car industry first, IDIS uses technology derived from fighter aircraft. The IDIS function continuously analyses the driver's activity by monitoring steering wheel movements, the position of the accelerator pedal, the indicator function and so on. This information is then processed and each moment is assigned an activity level.

Under normal circumstances, the driver is able to make phone calls, read text messages and receive traffic information. But when the road conditions require their full concentration – such as when they are braking or overtaking – signals from the telephone and peripheral systems will be withheld until the incident is past. IDIS is fitted as standard to every Volvo V50 and it is pre-programmed to accommodate future information and communication systems. The more infotainment functions the car possesses, the greater the benefit of IDIS.

The sophisticated electronic networking that makes IDIS possible also allows owners to personalise their vehicle. For example, the Volvo's V50's central locking system can be programmed via the menu option on the centre stack to offer the following options:

- Unlocking of doors all doors or only the driver's door
- Automatic door locking after driving off for added personal safety, if required
- Indicator blink when locking or unlocking with an option to cancel
- Variable time for 'Follow-me-home' and Approach Lighting (see Security) by
 30, 60 or 90 seconds intervals

The settings for the audio system can also be customised plus selectable news and traffic alerts, for instance.

Customers are also able to pick from a vast range of optional extras. Hi-fi enthusiasts, for example, can upgrade to a Premium Sound system with 12-speaker Dolby Pro Logic II and Surround Sound of the type recently introduced in the Volvo XC90. In addition, Bi-xenon gas discharge headlights will appeal to customers who regularly drive at night.

Business users may be interested in the RTI (Road and Traffic Information System) that comprises a large, remote-controlled colour screen, which is linked to a DVD system and displays route information for the whole of Europe. It retracts into the top of the fascia when not in use and can be controlled using a joystick-style switch on the steering wheel. A bespoke, integrated telephone system is also available.

To make life easier for customers and to offer even better value, Volvo has grouped together some of the more popular options into equipment packs:

- The <u>Winter Pack</u> comprises a headlamp cleaning system, heated front seats and luxury floor mats
- The <u>Family Pack</u> offers integrated booster cushions, a sun blind in the rear shelf and power child locks
- The <u>Convenience Pack</u> includes a trip computer, grocery bag holder, a rain sensor, steering wheel audio controls and cruise control

There is also a vast range of accessories designed to accommodate the varying needs of Volvo V50 owners. Tow bars and child booster cushions and seats can accompany ski, surfboard, or bicycle carriers. And it's even possible to specify a table for the rear centre armrest, which is great news for customers with young families. Each item is designed and built with the same attention to detail as the rest of the car and integrates beautifully into the overall package.

As you'd expect, the Volvo V50 sportswagon is supported by a comprehensive warranty. The standard mechanical warranty is three years/60,000 miles, there's a three year unlimited mileage warranty on the paintwork and 12 years cover against rust perforation. In addition, all Volvo's are covered by one year's free RAC cover, which provides full breakdown and recovery assistance, anywhere in Europe, 24 hours a day.