

Auto Mechanic Checklist

By Taylor Peterson

☐ Preliminaries

- ☐ Start shopping for a repair facility before you need one.
- ☐ Ask friends, coworkers and family members for the names of mechanics that they use.
- ☐ Be sure to find out about any bad experiences with certain mechanics.
- ☐ Talk to people who have cars similar to yours, if you are new to an area.
- ☐ Make sure the mechanic you've chosen services your type of car.
- ☐ Check with your local consumer organization regarding the reputation of the shop in question.
- ☐ Check the warranty on the repair work before leaving the car at the shop.
- ☐ Find out what the shop's hours are.

☐ At the Shop

- ☐ Check if the parking lot is clean and neat.
- ☐ Look into the service bays - is the floor clean, or is it cluttered with rags, scattered tools and debris?
- ☐ Check if the mechanics all have well-kept uniforms.
- ☐ Check if the displays are neat and informative
- ☐ Look on the walls inside for certificates showing training courses that their mechanics and associates have been through.
- ☐ Take a look at mechanic's toolbox, and its condition.
- ☐ Take your time, and let the mechanic give your vehicle a thorough once-over.
- ☐ Ask for a full explanation of what is going to be done to the car.
- ☐ Talk to the mechanic, ask questions and request to see the old parts when they are removed.
- ☐ When in doubt, go back to the dealership.

☐ Tips

- ☐ Bring your car into the shop for small stuff like oil changes and brake checks to develop a relationship.
- ☐ Don't choose a shop based solely on price.
- ☐ If you have had indications that there is something wrong with your car, be prepared to express these symptoms.