

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.