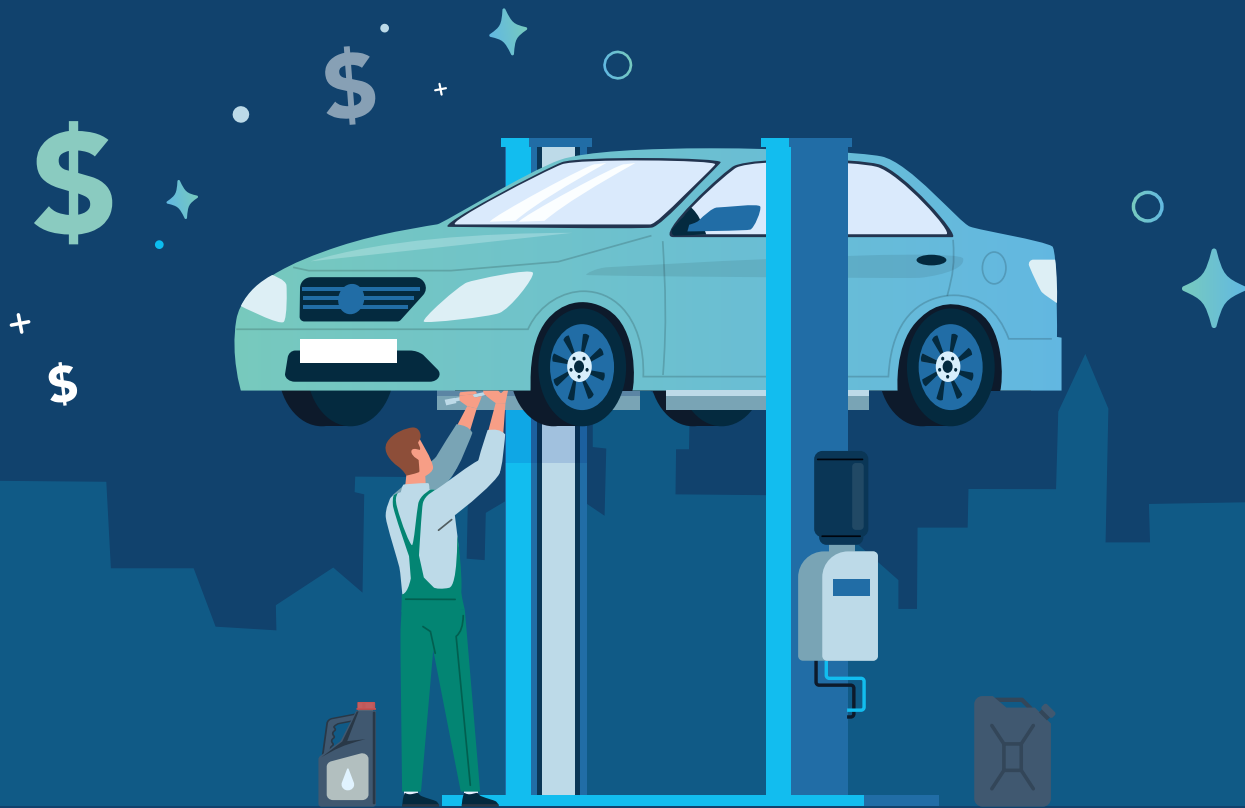


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— QUICK GUIDE TO —

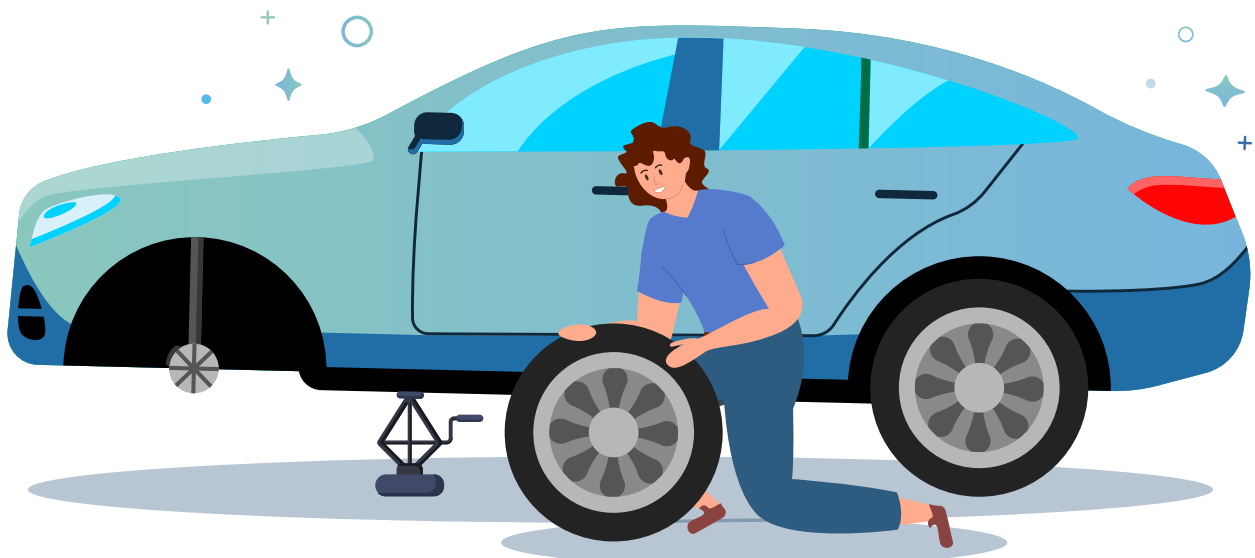
Finding a Reliable Mechanic at an Affordable Price



Cutting the Cost of Car Care

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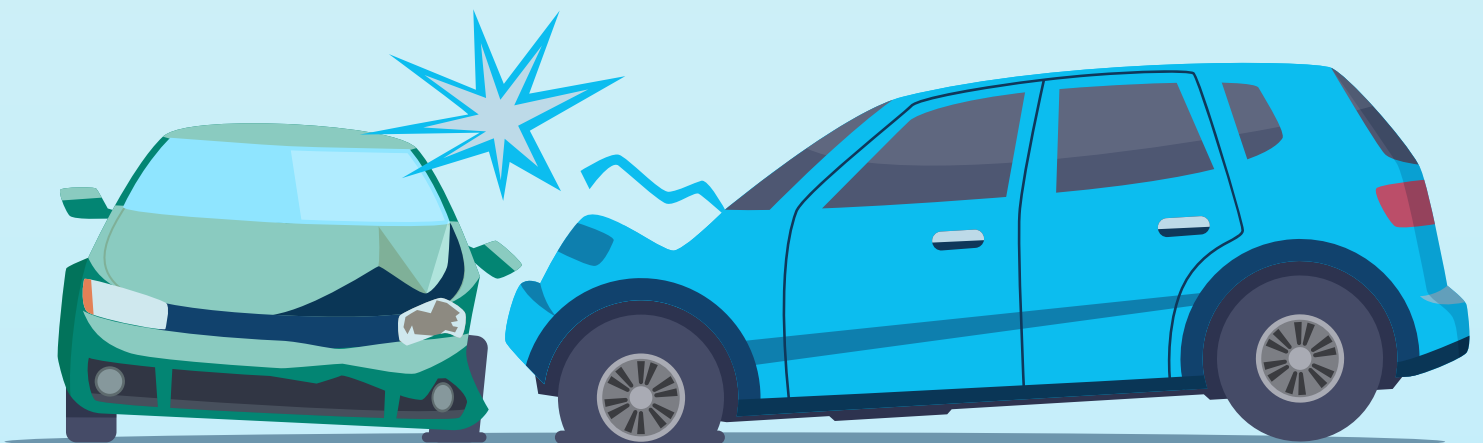
01 How the Right Technician Can Save You Cash

Welcome to the second guide in our money-saving car care series. In this guide, you'll learn how finding the right mechanic can save you money in several surprising ways, and discover helpful tips for finding the right one for your job. But first, let's look at some benefits of a good service tech that may not be top of mind:

1

Accurate Diagnoses & Quality Parts

A skilled and experienced mechanic will accurately diagnose issues with your vehicle. This means they won't waste time and money replacing parts that aren't actually causing the problem. A reputable mechanic will also use high-quality parts that are suitable for your vehicle. Low-quality or incorrect parts can lead to additional repairs and reduced vehicle performance.



2

An Ounce of Prevention

A good mechanic will recommend and perform regular maintenance tasks that can prevent major problems down the road. Preventive maintenance is always less costly than a major breakdown. Major breakdowns can be very costly to repair. A skilled mechanic can identify potential issues before they escalate into expensive problems, saving you from large repair bills.

3

Quality Work without Waste

A competent mechanic will perform repairs correctly the first time, reducing the likelihood of recurring issues. This saves you from having to pay for additional repairs and parts. Unfortunately, some unscrupulous mechanics may recommend unnecessary repairs or services to inflate your bill. A trustworthy mechanic will only recommend work that is truly needed.

4

Short & Long-Term Savings

A well-maintained vehicle tends to be more fuel-efficient. A good mechanic can help keep your vehicle's engine and systems in optimal condition, saving you money on fuel costs. Regular maintenance and proper repairs will also extend the lifespan of your vehicle. This means you won't need to replace your car as frequently, saving you significant money in the long run.

5

Professional Advice & No DIY Mistakes

A reliable mechanic can provide you with advice on how to care for your vehicle, which fluids to use, and how to maintain it properly. This knowledge can prevent avoidable issues and expenses. Attempting DIY repairs without the proper knowledge and tools can lead to costly mistakes. It's often better to have a professional handle complex repairs.

Overall, finding a mechanic who offers quality service, accurate diagnostics, and trustworthy advice can lead to substantial savings over the life of your vehicle. It's an investment that pays off in terms of safety, reliability, and financial well-being.



02 A Technicians You Trust, A Price You Can afford

Determining if an auto mechanic is trustworthy and reliable requires a combination of research, observation, and assessment. Finding a reliable and affordable mechanic can feel overwhelming, particularly with so many options, but these helpful tips are a good place to start:

1. Reputation & Reviews

Check online review websites like Google, Yelp, or Angie's List to see what other customers are saying about local mechanics and look for customer reviews and ratings. Keep in mind that no business will have a perfect record, but you should pay attention to patterns in feedback and whether customers mention the mechanic's honesty, transparency, and quality of work.

2. Credentials

Look for mechanics who are certified by reputable organizations, such as the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Certifications show that they have undergone training and have the necessary knowledge to work on your vehicle and have demonstrated their competence in various automotive repair and maintenance areas.



3. Experience

Inquire about the mechanic's experience and specialization. Mechanics with more years in the industry often have a broader range of skills and knowledge. A business that has been operating for several years is more likely to be reliable as it has consistently managed to gain and retain a steady customer base.

4. Transparency

Ask for detailed estimates and explanations of the work that needs to be done. Look for mechanics who are willing to provide a breakdown of costs, explaining what you're paying for and why. A reliable mechanic should be willing to break down costs and answer any questions you have.

5. Word of Mouth

Seek out recommendations from friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors who have had positive experiences with the mechanic. Personal referrals can be very valuable as they come from people you trust.

6. Shop Appearance

Drop by the mechanic's shop and get a sense of their professionalism and cleanliness. A clean, organized, and well-maintained shop can indicate professionalism and attention to detail.



7. Second Opinions

A skilled mechanic should explain the diagnostic process and provide evidence of the issues they've identified. They should be willing to show you damaged parts and explain why they need replacement. A trustworthy mechanic will take the time to listen to your concerns and explain repairs and maintenance recommendations in a clear and understandable manner.

8. Customer Service

Pay attention to how you're treated as a customer. Polite, respectful, and attentive behavior is a good sign. When you communicate with a mechanic, pay attention to how they address your concerns, answer your questions, and listen to your description of the problem. A mechanic who takes the time to understand your situation is more likely to provide quality service. A trustworthy mechanic also won't pressure you into unnecessary repairs or services. They'll provide recommendations and let you make an informed decision.

9. Avoid Unrealistic Low Prices

Be cautious of mechanics offering unusually low prices, as they might be cutting corners or using low-quality parts. Quality work often comes with an average price tag.



Remember that finding a reliable and affordable mechanic might take some time and effort, but it's worth it to ensure the longevity and safety of your vehicle. Start with smaller maintenance tasks to gauge their trustworthiness before entrusting them with major repairs.

Once you find a mechanic you trust, stick with

them. Developing a good relationship with a mechanic can lead to better service, honest advice, and even discounts over time. Ultimately, trust your instinct. If something feels off, consider looking for another mechanic who aligns better with your needs and expectations. And remember, always prioritize quality over the lowest price to avoid potential problems down the road.



Auto Hero plan membership allows you to use the mechanic of your choice, meaning you can save money on service you trust.



03 A Reliable Partner for the Road Ahead

Your **Auto Hero** plan membership allows you to go to the mechanic of your choice, so you can rest easy knowing your car is in trusted hands while still saving money. But that isn't the only way Auto Hero helps you along the road to savings.

As an **Auto Hero** plan member, you have access to an affordable suite of benefits that augment your existing insurance policy and insulate you from the unexpected costs associated with common auto pitfalls. As an affordable monthly subscription that costs **less than \$20 a month**, an **Auto Hero** membership provides much-needed peace of mind with top auto brand partnerships to help lessen the expense of that next repair—or even that next oil change.

Learn more at www.myrealbenefits.com



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