

Auto Mechanics

In the United States, finding a reliable automobile mechanic is a difficult process. Although many mechanics are extremely skilled and honest, some may be looking to take advantage of people, or are just incompetent. To protect yourself from these situations, it is important to find out from the mechanic ahead of time what work needs to be done before he/she begins working. Due to possible language differences, ask the mechanic to write down each inspection or repair that the mechanic is planning to make. Remember that it is your car and your money!

Also, do not agree to let the mechanic do any work that was not discussed when you first took the car in. There have been situations where the mechanic will “discover” other problems with your car while fixing the original problem. Take care of one problem at a time—the original one. Remember, **before buying a used car**, it is a very wise and accepted idea to have a mechanic inspect the vehicle to make sure there are no problems. You must call for an appointment and fees.

Disclaimer!! We cannot guarantee any of these mechanics or the prices. The comments in quotes are from international students and scholars from Duke.

Auto Mechanics	Telephone	Address	Pre-Purchase Evaluation Fee/Comments
Northgate Express & Auto Service	(919) 286-0613	1130 W. Club Blvd. (next to Northgate Mall)	\$65 for a complete “Buyer’s Evaluation” (1 hr)
Melton’s Service Center	(919) 286-7633	719 Iredell St.	\$70 (1 hr. 15 min)
Al’s Garage	(919) 967-3016	100 S. Merritt Mill Road, Chapel Hill	\$90-\$130 (depends on what you choose to have checked out).
Axel Auto Repair	(919) 697-3629	826 E Trinity Ave.	Fix all types of problems. Free computer diagnosis.
B & B Garage	(919) 286-9586	1909 Lamar St. (Near Guess Rd. and I-85)	
Garrett’s Garage	(919) 286-6044	2511B Guess Road	\$25 and up depending on how thorough a check you want. “Ask for mechanics Roger or Rodney.”
Cole’s Auto and Transmission	(919) 682-5407	417 Foster Street	Only Does Car Evaluations When He Has Time - “Friendly, reliable service and they’re willing to explain anything about your car or the service that you’d like to know.” “I have been consistently going to them for the past 5 years and they are terrific.”
Daniel Bros. Exxon	(919) 489-4660	3309 Old Chapel Hill Rd	\$40 and up for evaluation. “Great family garage”
Charlie’s Automotive	(919) 309 -4188	4506 Bennett Memorial Rd.	Ask for Charlie Pottorff.
Forest Hills Service Center	(919) 489 -4041	1317 University Drive	\$69.95 (Takes about 1½-2 hours for a basic evaluation)
Jim Hawkins Auto Repair	(919) 383-2046	220 Butler Ave.	\$75 (1hr) “For changing the timing belt, their rates were \$100 cheaper than the other two places I checked.”
Lonnie’s University Auto Center	(919) 309-7898	1307 Christian Ave. www.lonnies-auto.com	\$55 (1hr) “The staff is friendly, they listened to EVERY detail I had to say about the problem, and insisted they give me a ride to campus. Not only was the staff at Lonnie’s great, my car purrs like a kitten now, and I didn’t have to shell out megabucks to get it fixed.”
Massengill’s	(919) 687-0558	715 Rigsbee Ave	\$96.25 for a very detailed inspection. “These guys can REPAIR, not only replace.” “Wayne, the owner, is very knowledgeable.”
Wasp Automotive	(919) 572-2886	4906 Meadow Drive (near intersection of Hwy 54 & 55) www.waspauto.com	\$64 Specializes in Japanese Cars and comes highly recommended for service by many international students.