

Give Your Car Some TLC During April, It's National Car Care Month

April is National Car Care Month, a time for drivers to focus on taking better care of their vehicles and a reminder that putting off vehicle maintenance can lead to more extensive, and potentially costly, repairs down the road.

In these economic times, many consumers are looking for value, holding onto their cars longer. Caring for your vehicle with preventative maintenance can increase vehicle performance, significantly reduce fuel consumption and costs, and help the environment.

To find a good auto repair shop, the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation offers the following tips:

- Look for a repair shop before your vehicle needs repairs. You can make better decisions when you are not under stress.
- Ask family, friends, and co-workers for recommendations.
- Look for a clean, well organized facility that provides a customer satisfaction policy.
- Call the Better Business Bureau and local consumer organizations to check the shop's reliability and performance and to see if any complaints have been filed.
- Get everything in writing including an itemized list of repairs and a guarantee of all work done.
- Start with simple repairs to test the shop's integrity and competence. When you find a good shop and mechanic, stick with them.

For information about the Attorney General's Motor Vehicle Regulations, including Repairs and Services, visit the Attorney General's website at Motor Vehicle Regulations.

Before Making Repairs, Ask Yourself:

1. Do you use ASE-certified technicians? The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifies professionals in the automotive repair and service industry and aims to improve the quality of vehicle repair and service. Automotive technicians must undergo training and testing every five years to maintain their ASE certification.
2. Are you AAA approved, a member of the Better Business Bureau, and/or a member of any trade associations (e.g. Automotive Service Association, Automotive Technology and Energy Association, or Automotive Service Professionals)?
3. Do you use brand name parts? Brand name parts are often better quality and may come with warranties.

For more information about selecting an auto mechanic, visit our website at [Mechanics of Auto Repair](#).