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Shop Talk

Who do you choose for your mechanic?

Tips on choosing a mechanic that you can trust

By Krysten A. Laine, Urban Suburban

The dealership, the specialist, the mechanic around the corner, so many to choose from! How do you know you will get the best services for your money? These days we are all thinking about our money, where it goes, and is it money well spent. The economy has flashed warning signs all over to make us more aware of the dollar. Did you drive your car today or get in one to travel from point A to point B? Is your car your number one mode of transportation? You may want to be able to rely on your car to get you to and from where you need to go safely. You want to know that the money you spend on your car is money well spent and the problems are solved. When you go to the doctor, you take time in deciding who you are going to that will best suit yours and your family's needs. Since your vehicle is what gets you to these important appointments and events, shouldn't you care about who you take your car to?"

The next time you are due for your repairs on your vehicle, or even the next service, think about these four tips to help you decide your next service, think about these four tips to help you decide if an independent mechanic or a dealership is the best place to take your car.

- **Save Money!** -Isn't that the best reason in the world? Most independent automotive shops will beat dealer prices on most services. You can always call for an estimate.
- **Expanded Services** - Most independent automotive shops have developed relationships with other specialized service shops in the area. Need a new stereo? How about those monster tires? Are you looking for a custom exhaust? Do you need new interior? Your independent mechanic can save you money on these services through the relationships they have developed over the years. They can also assist with questions about these services and help you find the most reliable source to get that odd job done.
- **Custom work**- Some independent automotive shops will do the custom work for you to make your vehicle your own, such as body, paint, suspension, motor, or exhaust. You can find a place that is a one-stop-shop for all your vehicle servicing needs.
- **Personal Relationships** - The nostalgia of knowing your childhood friends into your adult life insinuates a certain bond. You can have this bond with an independent mechanic. You have the opportunity to create a friendship with a person who is taking care of your car and your day to day transportation. A mechanic can be someone who cares more than just about your car, they care about your family, your life. You have the opportunity to meet that person who is working directly under the hood of your vehicle. A mechanic can educate you on the decisions about your car. The mechanic can be someone you can have a cup of coffee with. The next time you are due for repairs, think about these four things. Car repair can be an opportunity to create another friendship and a new understanding of those wheels that get you where you have to go.

For automotive repair help on any type of car, not just Suburbans, give US a call at 925-283-5212 between the hours of 7:30am and 5:00pm Mon-Fri.