

# 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 taking 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 problems, 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 & scholars.

## Mechanics Within Walking Distance to Campus

Auto Mechanics	Telephone	Address	Car Evaluation Fee/Comments
Melton's Service Center	286- 7633	719 Iredell St.	\$70 (takes about 1 hr, 15 minutes)
Northgate Express & Auto Service	286-0613	1130 W. Club Blvd. (Near Northgate Mall)	\$60 for a complete "Buyer's Evaluation" (1hr)

## Mechanics Within Driving Distance

Auto Mechanics	Telephone	Address	Pre-Purchase Inspection Fee/Comments
Al's Garage	967 - 3016	100 S. Merritt Mill Road, Chapel Hill	\$80-\$140 "They tell you if you don't need to repair something and they don't charge you more. The only problem I had with them is they don't repair electronics on Ford cars. They gave me another address."
B & B Garage	286 - 9586	1909 Lamar St. (Right off Guess Rd., just South of I-85)	Call up and ask!
Garrett's Garage	286 - 6044	2511B Guess Road	\$24 and up depending on how thorough you want. Ask for mechanics Roger or Rodney
Cole's Auto and Transmission	682 -5407	417 Foster Street (One block north of Downtown Durham)	<b>No Longer Doing Car Evaluations</b> "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	489-4660	3309 Old Chapel Hill Rd	\$32.50 for evaluation "Great family garage"
Charlie's Automotive	309-4188	4506 Bennett Memorial Rd.	Ask for Charlie Pottorff
Forest Hills Service Center	489-4041	1317 University Drive	\$69.95 (Takes about 1½ hours for a basic evaluation)
Jim Hawkins Auto Repair	383-2046	220 Butler Ave.	\$72.00 "For changing the timing belt, their rates were \$100 cheaper than the other 2 places I checked." 1hrs ~ 2hrs
Lonnie's University Auto Center	309-7898	1307 Christian Ave. www.lonnies-auto.com	\$65; 45mins ~ 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	687-0558	715 Rigsbee Ave	\$82 for a very detailed inspection. "These guys can REPAIR, not only replace."
Wasp Automotive	572-2886	4906 Meadow Drive (in RTP) near intersection of Hwy 54 & 55 www.waspauto.com	\$63; Specializes in Japanese Cars and comes highly recommended for service by many international students.

## Auto Body Repair

Auto Shop	Telephone	Address
<b>Quality Auto Paint &amp; Body Shop (Owner: Sam)</b>	682-2511	906 W. Main Street
<b>Johnson Body Shop</b>	682-1090	2207 Fay Street

## Where students recommend NOT to go

Auto Mechanics	Telephone	Address	Comments
<b>University Service Center</b>		Erwin Road (corner of Douglas Street)	"I STRONGLY advise against this place. I had an axle replaced there once, and found out later on that a used part had been put in and I hadn't been told about this. Their behavior is very curt and they rarely explain what they need to do or why.
<b>Morgan Dodge Jeep Dealer</b>	383-2531	3601 Hillsborough Road	"I bought a two-year old car at this place and paid for a complete security check. Less than 3 months later, the brake system behaved funny. And we suspected the pads. They denied this mentioning some mysterious part of the brake system (naturally not covered by our 3-year warranty.) It turned out that the pads were so worn off that the disks started to be damaged and we need to replace the whole system"
<b>Wal-Mart</b>		New Hope Commons	"I had a very bad experience with them. Though their prices are quite cheap, their services (even for simple work such as tire change) are very bad."
<b>MIDAS Auto Service Experts</b>	493-5441	3606 Chapel Hill Boulevard 15-501 Business	"I paid around \$150 to fix the front brakes. One month later, the brake indicator came on again. They said I had to pay \$25 to fix it. When I took my car in again, the clutch was broken. In the invoice they put the statement "The clutch is about to gone" to deflect the fact that they damaged the clutch. They declined any responsibility of the damage and asked me to tow my car to another mechanics. It was ridiculous that I drove my car in MIDAS and towed my car out.