Common Mistakes at Auto Service Centers and Ways to Avoid Them by Rita McCall

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You have been living in San Diego for years and you know all the people and businesses in your area. You feel that it's time to have your car's oil changed, so you bring it to the neighborhood auto service center everyone's been talking about. You tell their mechanics what needs to be done and go about your merry way.

But then, something goes wrong. You have told them that you only need an oil change. However, the resident mechanic later says your engine also had to be fixed because of this or that problem. Worse, the provider charges you an arm and a leg for all those repairs, and won't let go of your car until they're paid!

By then, you feel that you have no choice. You pay them and get your car back. Thankfully, your car is now all fixed up, but you can't help but feel that you've been let down. If it's any consolation, though, you're not alone. Countless car owners have experienced similar issues. Fortunately, others learn from these experiences and avoid them in the future. Many of these car owners have begun to share their lessons. Listed below are some common mistakes and ways to avoid them.

Mistake #1: Choosing the dealership's service crew over the corner garage.

If you originally got your car through a dealership, it's only reasonable you'll take it to them afterwards for maintenance. However, the dealer's service center is usually more expensive than, say, the small corner garage just across the street. You can have both auto service centers inspect your car and provide an estimate. While many corner garages donâ€™t charge stellar prices, they can certainly provide stellar services.

Mistake #2: Not asking for the provider's pricing and labor rates.

You need to verify the auto service centerâ€™s pricing and labor rates thoroughly with the mechanic San Diego folks recommend. This will prevent any misunderstandings later on. It is important for you to fully understand how you are to be billed, and ask questions if you're confused or concerned about something.

Mistake #3: Not watching out for possible warning signs.

Even if the mechanic is just performing an oil change San Diego car ownersâ€™ need, there still needs to be open communication between the two parties. You need to feel like you can trust the mechanics who are working on your vehicle.

A good auto service center will have knowledgeable professionals who are not only qualified at their jobs, but know how to explain various procedures in a coherent manner. The San Diego mechanic you entrust with your vehicle should be transparent about the various maintenance procedures your car will be subjected to.

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