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**Taking the Guesswork Out of Finding a Good Auto Technician**

By **ARA Content**

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(ARA) – Finding a competent auto technician need not be a matter of chance. Much of the guesswork has been eliminated, thanks to the national program conducted by the non-profit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

ASE tests and certifies automotive professionals in all major technical areas of repair and service. With more than 430,000 currently certified professionals, the ASE program has industry-wide acceptance and recognition. ASE-certified technicians and parts specialists can be found across the nation at every type of repair facility, from dealerships, service stations and franchises to parts stores, independent garages and even municipal fleets.

**Certification Benefits Motorists**

ASE certifies the technical competence of individual technicians, not repair facilities. Before taking ASE certification tests, many technicians attend training classes or study on their own to brush up on technical information. By passing difficult, national tests, ASE-certified technicians prove their technical competence to themselves, to their employers and to their customers.

What's more, because the ASE program is primarily voluntary, ASE-certification becomes a self-selecting credential that weeds out those who may be incompetent. And while ASE does not certify repair shops or police individual business practices, it stands to reason that those shop owners and managers who support their service employees' efforts to become technically certified will be concerned about other aspects of their business as well.

**How Certification Works**

About 100,000 technicians take ASE tests each May and November at more than 700 locations. Technicians who pass at least one exam and fulfill the two-year work experience requirement become

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ASE–certified. Those who pass a battery of exams and fulfill the experience requirement earn Master Technician status.

The tests, developed by industry experts with oversight from ASE's in–house pros, are administered by ACT, the same group known for its college entrance exams.

There are specialty exams covering all major areas of repair. There are eight tests for auto technicians alone: engine repair, engine performance, electrical/electronic systems, brakes, heating and air conditioning, suspension and steering, manual drive train and axles, and automatic transmissions. (There are also exams for collision repair technicians, damage estimators, parts specialists and others.)

ASE certification is not for life. ASE requires technicians to re–test every five years to keep up with technology and to remain certified. All ASE credentials have expiration dates.

### Finding ASE–Certified Technicians

Repair establishments with at least one ASE technician are permitted to display the ASE sign. Each ASE professional is issued personalized credentials listing his or her exact area(s) of certification and appropriate shoulder insignia. Technicians also are issued certificates that employers often post in the customer–service area. And employers often display the blue and white ASE sign as well.

Businesses with a high level of commitment to the ASE program (75 percent of service personnel certified) are entitled to a special "Blue Seal of Excellence" recognition from ASE. These elite facilities are among the best in the nation. More than 1,500 businesses participate in this growing program.

### Choosing the Right Technician

As with other professionals, such as physicians, automotive technicians often specialize. So it's wise to ask the shop owner or service manager for a technician who is certified in the appropriate area, for example, brakes, engine repair or air conditioning.

### For More Information

For a free brochure with information about the ASE program, send a self–addressed, stamped long envelope to: ASE Consumer Brochure, Dept. ARA–3, 101 Blue Seal Dr., S.E., Suite 101, Leesburg, Va., 20175, or visit

for more information.

Courtesy of ARA Content,

; e–mail:

## Get Auto Insurance Quotes With 10 Simple Steps

By Oliver Turner

Cost of auto insurance is increasing day by day, which is increasing the number of people searching for cheap auto insurance quotes. But truly speaking, the question "how to find cheap auto insurance" remains unchanged. We will here discuss ten simple steps to find right auto insurance quotes.

I. It's true that everyone is asking for cheap car insurance policy, but a cheap car insurance quote turn into a nightmare at the time of filing a claim. Don't divert whole of your mind on auto insurance quotes, always keep an eye on coverage provided by the auto insurance policy you are taking.

II. Try to raise your deductible amount. Auto insurance quotes will be directly related to deductible amount.

III. Model of car, make of car also matter when you request for auto insurance quote. If you own a sports car and want to get an auto insurance quote, definitely it will attract higher auto insurance rates.

IV. Drive carefully. It will be very tough for you to get lower auto insurance quote if you had two accidents and three speeding fines in the last year. Auto insurance companies count all these thing while offering you auto insurance quote.

V. Don't forget installing anti theft and safety devices in your car. If your car is at less risk and safe, then it will be easier for you to find cheap car insurance quote.

VI. Before buying a new auto insurance policy close the older one.

VII. Renewal of auto insurance policy is also required at a fix time. Just paying for it is not the right solution.

VIII. Some times auto insurance companies provide multipolicy discount, that's don't forget to look at your other insurers.

IX. Internet is good resource to search cheap car insurance quotes. You can even find discounts.

X. Read the fine print before signing policy.

We offer the most comprehensive auto insurance quotes site. Check it out on

. All about auto insurance on

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