Auto Repair at Home

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

You save a lot of money by doing your own auto repairs, but while you are trying to avoid the bill from the mechanic, make sure you're avoiding the hazards involved in the work.

- Use the right tools for the job. Sockets, wrenches and screwdrivers should be the exact size, not "close enough."
- Protect your hands from solvents and gasoline by wearing protective gloves.
- Be prepared to clean up spills, and know how to dispose of flammable rags.
- Wear protective equipment, especially leather work gloves and goggles, to protect yourself from metal chips, cuts and scrapes.
- If you are putting your car up on ramps, make sure they are sturdy and follow the directions for how to set the car's emergency brake and transmission, and how to chock the other set of wheels. Don't improvise ramps.
- Review the precautions for working with gasoline if you are doing any work on your fuel tank, fuel lines or carburetor.

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