

PRESS RELEASE

Do it for me – how to save money on car repair bills

Many people have reservations when it comes to the costs and transparency of garages. And especially in the face of a cost-of-living crisis, consumers are trying to repair their cars themselves. These are the results of a representative study by AUTODOC. AUTODOC provides car owners with tips and tricks to ensure that their own repairs are a success. And even if a visit to the garage is really necessary, there are still ways customers can save money.

Berlin, 15 November 2022 – Bills, bills, bills: Who doesn't know the feeling when just thinking of the repair bill for your vehicle makes you feel uneasy? This concern is not entirely unfounded. This is shown by a representative survey carried out by AUTODOC. According to the survey, four out of ten respondents have already had negative experiences at garages – in most cases because they paid too much for the repair (23%) or found the process lacked transparency (13%).

Buying a new car or newer used car that will need fewer repairs is not an option for most respondents. More than 80% can currently imagine driving their car longer than planned. According to the survey, the main reasons for this are the current high cost of new cars and the feeling or certainty that they need to save money.

To make sure your car lasts longer, good care is indispensable. So it's no surprise that do-it-yourself car repair is enjoying great popularity. It not only saves money, but is also sustainable: if you repair your car, you'll get a longer service life out of it. The respondents are very committed to this; they use the internet to build their know-how, for example by watching hobby mechanics on YouTube. Half of all respondents have the confidence to work on their own car. Only a quarter do not want to carry out even minor repairs because they lack the know-how.

Do-it-for-me instead of do-it-yourself

AUTODOC has compiled an extensive pool of knowledge on its blog. From replacing windscreen wipers and oil to changing winter tyres, it's all there. Sometimes, though, a visit to the garage is still a good idea to guarantee that your car is still fit to drive safely on the road. The good news: according to the study, the majority of Germans trust garages. After all, they are staffed by well-trained professionals. However, there is also potential to save money when visiting a garage. Spare parts and other materials often cost a lot of money, and drivers can save by simply bringing them themselves.

DIFM, Do-It-For-Me, is what it's called when customers buy spare parts themselves from suppliers like AUTODOC and bring them to a garage to be fitted. On the AUTODOC website, the right spare parts can be found easily using the filter function. The potential savings can be enormous, depending on the vehicle and the spare part. AUTODOC has compared the prices of spare parts in franchise dealerships, independent garages, and its own online shop. The results:

spare parts from AUTODOC are often cheaper. For an oil filter, for example, customers can save up to 50% if they choose the cheapest AUTODOC product. For engine oil, they can save as much as 75% depending on the car model. Although the AUTODOC price comparison is only a sample, comparing prices is always worthwhile – especially for higher-priced spare parts. However: not all garages offer do-it-for-me, so it's best to ask the garage in advance.

About the study

For this study, AUTODOC, together with the market research institute Innofact AG, surveyed 1,357 people between the ages of 18 and 79 – 1,111 of them car owners. The sample corresponds to the representative distribution in the German population in terms of age and gender. The independent online survey took place in August 2022.

About AUTODOC

AUTODOC is a leading online retailer of vehicle parts and accessories in Europe. The company, which was founded only 14 years ago by Alexej Erdle, Max Wegner, and Vitalij Kungel in Berlin, has quickly developed into one of the most exciting internet companies in Europe. In 2021, AUTODOC achieved a turnover of over one billion euros (2020: 842 million euros). AUTODOC has 4.8 million products for 166 car, 23 truck, and 154 motorcycle brands in its range. AUTODOC operates in 27 European countries and employs 5,000 people at six locations.

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