

CONSUMER CORNER

Certified Auto Technicians: A Turn In The Right Direction

(NAPSA)—If you've found a good mechanic—nowadays called auto technicians in a nod to just how high-tech the field has become—you've done yourself a good turn. But if you're still looking, or are new to your area, here's some good news. Organizations such as the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) can help take the guesswork out of auto repairs.

ASE conducts the only industry-wide, national certification pro-



The voluntary certification tests draw some of the best and the brightest technicians.

gram and draws tens of thousands of technicians from small shops, large franchises, dealerships and more every quarter to take its independent certification exams.

Those who pass and have two years of work experience earn ASE certification in up to eight specialties (brakes, engine performance, etc.). There are also exams for collision repair technicians and others. Technicians must recertify every five years to keep current.

ASE-certified technicians wear blue and white insignia; their employers usually post the ASE sign in the customer waiting area. To get some seasonal car care tips, visit www.ase.com.