



Why is Proper Wheel Alignment Important?

Wheel alignment is the specific settings of your vehicle's suspension to optimize ride and vehicle handling, minimize tire wear and optimize steering characteristics. Each Manufacturer specifies precise settings to achieve the designed operational performance from their vehicle.

Maintaining the correct suspension setting will make your car safer, easier to drive, maximize your tire wear, and ultimately save you money. Steering pull, unsteady or loose steering, and hard steering can all be caused by misalignment conditions. Misalignment conditions can cause greatly accelerated tire wear, poor fuel economy, and excessive wear on other suspension parts and under extreme conditions can make the vehicle hard to control.

Whenever you impact a curb or pot hole in the road the alignment should be checked before unusual tire wear is detected, (*edge wear, diagonal wear, cupping wear*) which can save you premature tire replacement! Steering or handling problems such as (*loose steering, steering wheel off center, steering changes direction after hitting bumps*), should have the alignment checked as a part of the diagnostic procedure. The installation of new tires or the replacement of worn suspension parts should always be accompanied by a wheel alignment to help protect your tire investment. Checking the wheel alignment as a part of routine maintenance can significantly increase suspension parts and tire life, and save you money which is why every time we service a vehicle we check the alignment dynamically as a routine part of our service!

A dynamic alignment test is done with the vehicle in motion, is not a full alignment test but pinpoints potential problems that may need a further look. If we suspect a problem, based on the dynamic reading, we will recommend a complete alignment check and adjustment as needed.

Today's vehicles, especially front wheel drive vehicles, require a full four wheel alignment check in most cases,. Rear suspension settings determine the overall handling and rear tire wear characteristic so it is critical that they be within the proper parameters. Not all vehicles have factory installed adjusters for the rear alignment so in extreme cases special adjustments must be made that may require additional time and materials. This usually is due to an accident, overloading or age of the suspension.