

Wheel Alignment Maintenance

This playbook details the steps to check and maintain proper wheel alignment on a vehicle. Regular alignment checks ensure safety, reduce tire wear, and improve handling.

Step 1: **Inspect Tires**

Check the tires for uneven wear patterns which can indicate misalignment. Look for bald spots or differences in the wear rate between the front and rear tires.

Step 2: **Test Drive**

Take the car for a test drive to assess alignment. Notice if the car pulls to one side without steering input or if the steering wheel is off-center when driving straight.

Step 3: **Use Alignment Kit**

Using a wheel alignment kit, follow the manufacturer's instructions to measure the toe, camber, and caster angles of the wheels to see if they are within the specifications.

Step 4: **Adjust Alignment**

If the measurements indicate that the alignment is off, adjust the angles as necessary. This usually involves turning the tie rods for toe adjustments and adjusting the suspension for camber and caster.

Step 5: **Verify Adjustments**

After adjustments are made, re-measure the alignment angles to ensure that everything is now within the manufacturer's recommended specifications.

Step 6: **Professional Check**

For precise alignment, or if the adjustments are beyond your capability, it is recommended to take the vehicle to a professional mechanic or tire shop for a comprehensive alignment service.

General Notes

Safety Precautions

Always follow vehicle manufacturer's safety instructions when working on your vehicle. Use proper lifting techniques and secure the car before making any adjustments.

Regular Checks

Wheel alignment should be checked regularly, especially after hitting a significant pothole, after an accident, or when new tires are installed.