



AUTO BODY REPAIR

Grimes Paint & Body Publishes Consumer Guidance on Collision Damage and Vehicle Alignment

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Grimes Paint & Body has published new September consumer guidance explaining how collision damage can affect areas associated with vehicle alignment and why post-accident evaluation may extend beyond visible dents, bumpers, and body panels.

The new resource focuses on three areas drivers may encounter after an accident: changes in steering or vehicle tracking, collision damage near wheels and suspension components, and the relationship between body repair and alignment-related evaluation.

The September publication is intended to clarify a common post-collision question: when a vehicle drives differently after an accident, an alignment concern may be one consideration, but the underlying cause cannot be determined from the symptom alone.

Collision location can provide important context.

Front-corner and side impacts can involve areas near wheels, suspension components, steering-related parts, and mounting locations. Depending on the vehicle and circumstances, rear impacts can also affect areas around the rear wheels or surrounding structure.

A direct impact involving a wheel or tire can introduce additional considerations because those components are connected to other parts of the vehicle.

For this reason, Grimes Paint & Body's September guidance explains that an apparent alignment issue should be considered within the broader post-collision evaluation rather than treated automatically as an isolated adjustment.

Drivers can learn more about that evaluation process through the company's Collision Repair resource.

Changes in vehicle behavior are another focus of the new publication.

After an accident, a driver may notice that the steering wheel appears off-center while traveling straight, the vehicle seems to pull toward one side, or handling feels different than it did before the collision.

These observations can be useful when communicating with a repair facility, but they do not independently identify the cause. A change in steering or tracking can have different explanations, making documentation of the collision and vehicle condition important during evaluation.

Wheel and tire condition can provide additional information.

Visible damage to a wheel or tire can be documented along with the location of the impact and surrounding collision damage. When an accident occurs near a wheel, technicians may also consider nearby suspension or steering-related components based on what is found during inspection.

The September guidance makes an important distinction between wheel alignment and collision repair.

Wheel alignment generally concerns wheel positioning according to specified measurements. Collision repair can involve body panels, suspension-related areas, mounting locations, and other components affected by an impact.

When collision damage involves components or mounting areas associated with wheel position, the underlying damage may need to be addressed as part of the repair plan before applicable final measurements or adjustments are completed.

This distinction can help consumers understand why an alignment adjustment alone may not address every post-collision steering or tracking concern.

Grimes Paint & Body provides additional information about repairing collision-damaged exterior and body components through its Auto Body Repair resource.

The September publication also addresses the role of vehicle-specific technical information.

Vehicle manufacturers can provide specifications and repair procedures related to measurements, component replacement, attachment locations, and other repair operations. Which information applies depends on the vehicle and the damage identified during evaluation.

This is one reason two vehicles involved in apparently similar collisions may not require identical repair procedures.

Modern driver-assistance technology can introduce another consideration.

Some vehicles use cameras, radar equipment, steering-related sensors, and other components to support advanced driver-assistance functions. Depending on the vehicle and repairs performed, manufacturer information may identify additional procedures associated with affected systems.

The September guidance does not suggest that an alignment concern automatically requires ADAS calibration. Instead, it explains that any additional procedures are determined according to the specific vehicle, affected systems, and work performed.

Repair sequence can also become relevant when collision damage and alignment-related concerns occur together.

An initial evaluation may document exterior damage along with observable wheel, tire, steering, or tracking concerns. If additional collision-related damage is identified, those findings can become part of the repair plan before applicable final measurements and verification procedures are completed.

This process can also explain why the full scope of a collision repair may not always be apparent from exterior damage alone.

The September guidance encourages drivers to communicate changes they notice following an accident. An off-center steering wheel, unusual tracking, changes in steering feel, or visible wheel and tire damage can

provide useful context when the vehicle is evaluated.

The publication does not suggest that every collision causes an alignment problem. Instead, it gives consumers a more focused explanation of when alignment-related concerns may become relevant and how those concerns fit within a broader collision repair assessment.

By publishing the September guidance, Grimes Paint & Body is adding a focused consumer resource addressing the connection between collision location, vehicle behavior, wheel and suspension areas, and alignment-related evaluation after an accident.

The information is educational and is not intended to diagnose a particular vehicle without appropriate evaluation.

About Grimes Paint & Body

Grimes Paint & Body is a family-owned collision and auto body repair business serving Forney and surrounding Texas communities. The company provides collision repair, auto body repair, paintless dent repair, RV repair, and related vehicle restoration services from its facility at 11804 N Profit Row, Forney, TX 75126.

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Grimes Paint & Body

Grimes Paint & Body in Forney, TX provides trusted collision repair, dent repair, paintless dent removal, and OEM autobody repairs. From minor dings to major damage, our skilled team delivers quality workmanship and honest service.

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