

What Is a Wheel Alignment?

Ideally, all of your vehicle's wheels would always be headed in precisely the same direction. But over time – and after driving into too many potholes – your wheels can be thrown out of that ideal position. That's when you need a wheel alignment.

When we align your wheels, we use a specialized system that adjusts the *angles* of your wheels so that they're parallel to each other and perpendicular to the ground.

How Do You Know It's Time for a Wheel Alignment?

If your wheels are even slightly out of alignment you may notice that your vehicle pulls or drifts to one side, even as you drive down a straight and level road. The “spokes” of your steering wheel may stay pointed to the left or right. You might see that the tread on your tires is wearing unevenly. (That can lead to premature tire failure.) And because your wheels are “fighting each other” as you drive, the increased rolling resistance may cause your fuel economy to drop.

Even if you don't notice any of those symptoms, it's a good idea to have your alignment checked every 10,000 miles or about once per year. Refer to your owner's manual for the specific recommendation from your vehicle's manufacturer, or call any Raffield Tire location for help.