

Underneath Is Often Overlooked: Check The Vehicle's Chassis

(NAPSA)—Preventive maintenance typically implies looking under the vehicle's hood; often, though, it's the chassis underneath the vehicle that's overlooked.

According to the Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), underperformed vehicle maintenance in the American automotive aftermarket is over \$50 billion annually. Brakes, shocks and struts, and chassis components—all located under the vehicle—are among the most neglected parts and, if not properly maintained, can contribute to wheel alignment problems.

That's why ACDelco, a global leader in automotive replacement parts and services, has teamed up with Scot Manna, owner of MB Automotive in Des Plaines, Ill., and ACDelco 2006 Technician of the Millennium IV competition winner, to discuss why owners shouldn't overlook their vehicles' chassis and alignment.

Q: Do vehicle owners tend to neglect the warning signs of chassis wear more than other more apparent problems, like worn brakes or engine performance?

A: Yes. Chassis parts are out of sight and out of mind to most vehicle owners. Sometimes it's not until a noise is unusual that it tends to get the motorist's attention and motivate him/her to have the vehicle checked. Noises shouldn't be overlooked because bigger trouble can follow.

Q: Why is it significant for a vehicle to be properly aligned?

A: Proper wheel alignment reduces tire wear and helps provide improved fuel economy and vehicle control and handling.



Most drivers think about this only if their car pulls to one side while driving, but severe tire wear can result from improper wheel alignment and yet the vehicle can still drive straight. The only way to know if the alignment is correct is to have it checked.

Q: How often should vehicle owners have their cars or trucks checked for excessive chassis wear?

A: Most technicians visually inspect for chassis wear during routine oil change service, but a thorough chassis inspection should be performed according to the manufacturer's suggested interval. Repair shops typically offer vehicle inspections either in the fall, because winter road conditions make for a bad time to be stranded with a broken tie-rod or ball joint, or in the spring, to assess if curbs and potholes have caused corrosion or damage.

Drivers are encouraged to get regular vehicle inspections and get their vehicles serviced at a service center that has ASE-certified technicians. To find an ACDelco parts retailer near you, visit acdelco.com or call 1-800-ACDelco.