Most drivers don't realize how much their car is doing for them.

Your vehicle likely comes equipped with a suite of built-in safety features to help you avoid accidents before they happen, especially if it was manufactured after 2010. These systems are always monitoring traffic, reading lane markings, and scanning for hazards so you don't have to do it alone.

A few things your vehicle may be doing right now:

- Keeping you centered within your lane
- Scanning the road ahead for sudden stops
- Watching your blind spots for vehicles you can't see
- Adjusting your following distance at highway speeds
- Alerting you when a collision is likely

These features rely on cameras and sensors that have to be aimed with extreme precision. When that precision is disrupted, even slightly, the systems that depend on it may not perform when you need them most.

↗ WORTH KNOWING:

A sensor that's misaligned by a single degree can misread where a nearby vehicle actually is, potentially by an entire lane.

Wondering whether your vehicle has these features?

Your service advisor can check your vehicle by make, model, and year, and walk you through what your manufacturer recommends based on the service being performed.

After certain services, we'll let you know if your vehicle requires recalibration and walk you through exactly what's involved.

Your vehicle's safety features were built to protect you. Keeping them calibrated is how we make sure they can.

? HAVE QUESTIONS?

Ask your service advisor before you leave today.

Your car is looking out for you.

A guide to vehicle safety systems or ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems).

After certain repairs services such as wheel alignments, windshield replacement, or headlight repairs, newer vehicles' safety technology needs to be recalibrated to keep working correctly.

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Your vehicle sees more than you think

ADAS is not a single feature. It's a network of sensors and cameras working in coordination, each mounted in a precise location and aimed at a specific zone around your vehicle.

Windshield: Front-facing camera that reads lane markings and monitors traffic ahead

Front bumper: Radar sensor that powers emergency braking and adaptive cruise control

Rear bumper: Cross-traffic and Blind Spot radars detect vehicles approaching and alert you to hazards

Wheels: Speed sensors that track individual wheel rotation for stability control

Steering column: Steering angle sensor that monitors driver input and vehicle direction

Every one of these components feeds information to the others. The system is only as accurate as its least precise part.

↗ FACT:
+90% of new cars today come equipped with these features.

Everyday repairs can have unexpected effects

The ADAS sensors mounted throughout your vehicle are calibrated to work within a very narrow margin of error.

Routine services can shift that aim by changing the vehicle's ride height, altering what a camera or radar is pointed at, or physically moving a sensor from its original position

Services that commonly require recalibration:

- Wheel alignment
- Tire size change
- Windshield replacement
- Suspension work
- Side mirror replacement
- Front or rear bumper repairs

No warning light doesn't mean no problem.

A sensor that's out of calibration won't always trigger a dashboard alert. Your vehicle may behave normally in everyday driving but respond incorrectly in the moment that matters.

Manufacturers account for this, which is why calibration requirements are based on what work was performed.

The margin for error is smaller than you'd expect

Even one degree of sensor misalignment can mean your systems aren't working correctly.

At 60 feet, a forward-facing camera or radar that's off by one degree is already tracking one foot to the side of where it should be. At 180 feet, that error grows to three feet, wide enough to place an obstacle in a completely different lane.

At highway speeds, your vehicle has very little time to respond. A sensor that's even slightly off can mean the difference between whether your system can prevent an accident or not.

Recalibration restores each sensor to factory specification, so the measurements your vehicle is making are the ones your safety systems are built to act on.

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