

Why Does Your Car Pull to One Side When Going Over Bumps: Common Causes & Fixes

Meta description: Learn why your car pulls to one side over bumps. Discover common causes like suspension issues, alignment problems, and tyre pressure with practical fixes.



Alt text: Car suspended to the side.

Key Takeaways

- Worn suspension components like control arms, struts, and ball joints are major culprits behind directional pulling, especially over bumps.
- Uneven tyre pressure is often the simplest cause of a car pulling to one side and can be fixed at home with a proper pressure gauge.
- Wheel alignment issues typically cause consistent pulling in the same direction regardless of road conditions.
- A vehicle pulling only when braking often indicates a stuck brake calliper or damaged brake components.
- [Ordiniq's AutoPump](#) maintains precise tyre pressure balance, preventing pulling caused by pressure differences between sides.

Understanding Why Cars Pull Over Bumps

Your car's suspension system is designed to absorb road imperfections while maintaining directional stability, and when suspension components fail, this stability is compromised, often resulting in pulling, especially over bumps.

The most common culprits include control arms, ball joints, tie rods, and strut/shock absorbers that work together to keep your wheels properly positioned.

Understanding what's causing your car to pull sideways starts with knowing what components might be at fault, as each system plays a critical role in keeping your vehicle tracking straight when navigating uneven terrain.

Ordiniq AutoPump: Your Pocket-Sized Roadside Hero

Join 10,000+ Drivers Who Never Worry About Flat Tyres Again

Why Ordiniq's AutoPump Is Essential

- **Powerful 150 PSI** to inflate tyres in minutes
- **Smart Auto Shut-Off** sets perfect pressure every time
- **Works on Everything** from cars to bikes to sports equipment
- **Built-in LED & SOS Lights** for nighttime emergencies
- **24/7/365 Customer Support** to give you peace of mind

What

★★★★★ "I like the getting a flat allowed me Definitely a



Customers Say

was at first very skeptical about using a new product Autopump with my 2018 Ford Focus. But after tyre due to a nail, it inflated my tyre quickly and to get to a garage and have the tyre repaired. thumbs up from me." - Gregg D. Bristol, UK

Try It

Experience you from a purchase with no questions asked.

Risk-Free for 90 Days

the AutoPump with zero worries. If it doesn't save tyre emergency within 90 days, we'll refund your

FREE BONUSES: Tyre Pressure Monitoring Caps (£19.99 Value) + Tyre Safety eBook (£10 Value) + FREE Shipping Across the UK via Royal Mail and Evri

[Get Ordiniq's AutoPump Today!](#)

**Ordiniq also offers [Handheld Wired Car Vacuum Cleaner](#) and [Tyre Repair Kit](#), which are great extras to keep in your boot for added peace of mind.*

Primary Causes of Pulling Over Bumps

Uneven Tyre Pressure

Uneven tyre pressure can create a significant pulling effect. Your car will naturally pull toward the side with lower tyre pressure as that tyre creates more rolling resistance. Even a 5–6 PSI

difference between tyres on the same axle can cause noticeable pulling, particularly when hitting bumps that momentarily increase the load on your suspension.

Check all four tyres when they're cold using a quality digital tyre gauge, comparing readings to the manufacturer's specifications found on the sticker inside your driver's door jamb. This simple check often resolves pulling issues without expensive repairs.

Suspension System Problems

When suspension components like control arms, ball joints, or struts wear out, they create an imbalance in how your vehicle handles impacts. Worn ball joints allow excessive movement in the steering geometry, while damaged struts fail to properly control wheel movement over bumps.

Signs of suspension problems include clunking noises over bumps, [uneven tyre wear patterns](#), and pulling that intensifies specifically when hitting road irregularities. These components work as a system, meaning worn parts often cause damage to related components.

Wheel Alignment Issues

Wheel alignment problems create consistent pulling regardless of road conditions, but the effect becomes more pronounced over bumps as suspension movement temporarily worsens the misalignment.

The three main alignment angles (camber, caster, and toe) all affect directional stability.

Alignment problems often develop after hitting potholes, kerbs, or experiencing minor accidents. Your car will pull toward the side with misaligned wheels, and uneven tyre wear patterns can help diagnose these issues.

Brake System Problems

If pulling occurs primarily when braking over bumps, brake system issues are likely the cause. Stuck brake callipers that don't release properly create constant friction on one wheel, while uneven brake pad wear results in different braking forces between sides.



Caption: Brake-related pulling is dangerous because it affects your ability to stop predictably and safely, requiring immediate professional attention.

Alt text: A car with a failed brake.

DIY Diagnostic Steps

Tyre Pressure Check & Correction

Start with the simplest possible cause by checking and [correcting tyre pressure](#) using a quality digital gauge. After adjusting pressures to manufacturer specifications, take a test drive on a straight, level road to see if the pulling persists.

While checking pressure, inspect tyres for uneven wear patterns, which could indicate alignment or suspension issues that won't be solved by pressure adjustment alone.

Basic Visual Inspection

Park your car on level ground and examine each wheel well, comparing the gap between the tyre and fender on both sides. Uneven gaps may indicate worn springs or struts, while visible fluid leaks on shocks suggest seal failure.

Check control arm bushings for cracks, and look at tie rod ends for excessive play or torn protective boots that can lead to premature component failure.

When Professional Help is Needed

Suspension Repair Costs

Simple suspension repairs like replacing tie rod ends might cost £120–250, while more comprehensive jobs like replacing control arms typically range £250–600 per side. Strut replacement tends to fall in the £350–800 range for a pair.

Many suspension components work together, meaning worn parts often cause damage to related components, making comprehensive replacement more cost-effective than individual repairs.

Alignment Service Value

Wheel alignment services cost between £60–150, depending on whether you need two-wheel or four-wheel alignment. Despite the cost, professional alignment provides exceptional value by improving fuel economy, extending tyre life, and enhancing overall safety.

Most alignment shops provide before and after measurements, allowing you to see exactly what was adjusted and confirm the service resolved your pulling issues.

Maintain Optimal Vehicle Balance with Ordiniq

The display screen provides clear readings in all lighting conditions, ensuring you can achieve identical pressures across all tyres with confidence.

The programmable auto-shutoff feature eliminates human error by stopping inflation precisely at your target pressure, preventing the over-correction that often occurs when manually monitoring pressure during inflation.

Accessible Vehicle Stability

Temperature fluctuations create ongoing pressure variations that can gradually develop into noticeable handling issues. The AutoPump's portable design encourages regular pressure checks that help identify these changes before they affect your driving experience.

With a 3900mAh rechargeable battery and three charging methods, including USB-C, mains adapter, and 12V car connection, the versatile power system ensures pressure maintenance capability regardless of location or circumstances.

This accessibility means you can address pressure imbalances immediately rather than waiting for convenient service station access. With a 150 PSI capacity, it handles all vehicle applications, from [mountain bikes](#) to [exercise balls](#).

Safety Features for Roadside Diagnostics

Emergency situations involving vehicle pulling require maximum visibility and safety for proper assessment. The AutoPump's integrated dual LED system provides bright white illumination for accurate tyre pressure diagnosis and diagnostic work in low-light conditions.

Additionally, the red SOS flashing beacon warns oncoming traffic of your roadside presence, ensuring you can safely address pressure imbalances or emergency repairs that may be contributing to your vehicle's pulling behaviour.

Complete Automotive Care System

Our integrated approach includes the AutoPump for precise tyre inflation and pressure maintenance, the [Handheld Wired Car Vacuum Cleaner](#) for thorough interior cleaning and debris removal, and the [Tyre Repair Kit](#) for emergency puncture repairs and roadside tyre fixes.

Complete UK Protection Package

Each AutoPump purchase includes our comprehensive 90-day risk-free guarantee alongside round-the-clock UK customer service support.

Your package also features complimentary [tyre pressure monitoring caps](#) valued at £19.99, designed to provide early warning detection of pressure drops before they compromise vehicle safety. Over 10,000 UK drivers trust us for exceptional vehicle maintenance.

[Shop the Ordiniq's AutoPump Today!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Is it safe to drive when my car pulls to one side over bumps?

Driving a car that pulls over bumps presents varying safety risks depending on severity and cause.

Mild pulling from slightly uneven tyre pressure might be relatively safe for short distances but should be addressed promptly, while pulling from compromised suspension components like control arms or ball joints can lead to sudden loss of vehicle control.

Severe pulling that requires constant correction or is accompanied by noises like clunking should be addressed immediately, preferably by towing to a repair facility.

How can I tell if pulling is caused by alignment or suspension problems?

Alignment problems typically cause consistent pulling in the same direction regardless of road conditions, often with specific tyre wear patterns like inside or outside edge wear.

Suspension problems create more dynamic symptoms, pulling that changes or intensifies specifically over bumps, during braking, or when making turns. This is usually accompanied by noises like clunking or squeaking that indicate mechanical problems with suspension components.

Will new tyres fix my car's pulling issue?

New tyres may resolve pulling if the problem stems from uneven tyre wear or damaged tyre structure, but they're rarely the complete solution if underlying alignment or suspension problems haven't been addressed.

The issues that created uneven wear will likely damage new tyres in the same pattern.

How often should suspension components be checked?

Suspension components should be inspected annually or every 12,000–15,000 miles during routine maintenance, with more frequent checks after 60,000 miles when rubber bushings and joints naturally deteriorate.

If you frequently drive on rough roads or have hit potholes or kerbs, inspections every 6 months help catch wear before it causes pulling problems.

How does proper tyre pressure prevent pulling over bumps?

Correct and balanced tyre pressure ensures equal contact patches and rolling resistance between all tyres, preventing the natural drift that occurs when one side has different inflation levels.

The [Ordiniq AutoPump](#)'s precise measurement eliminates the pressure imbalances that become particularly noticeable over bumps, where suspension movement amplifies the effects of uneven tyre contact.