

Why Does Your Car Pull to One Side When Accelerating or Braking: Common Causes & Fixes

Meta description: Learn why your car pulls to one side when accelerating or braking. Discover common causes like tyre pressure, alignment, and brake issues today.



Alt text: Car pulled to the side.

Key Takeaways

- Uneven tyre pressure is the most common and easily fixable cause of a car pulling to one side, with a simple pressure check potentially solving your problem.
- Alignment issues often cause cars to pull when driving straight, requiring professional adjustment after hitting potholes or kerbs.
- A car that pulls during braking specifically may indicate dangerous brake calliper problems that require immediate professional attention.
- Front-wheel drive vehicles can experience torque steer when accelerating, causing a temporary pull that's normal but can be minimised.
- [Ordiniq's AutoPump](#) ensures precise tyre pressure maintenance, which prevents pulling caused by pressure imbalances between sides.

Understanding Why Cars Pull to One Side

When your car veers left or right, specifically while pressing the accelerator or brake pedal, the problem is often related to components that engage during these specific actions.

Power delivery systems, tyre conditions, alignment issues, and brake system problems all contribute to pulling under different circumstances.

Understanding these patterns helps you better communicate with your mechanic and potentially identify simple fixes you can perform at home before seeking professional assistance.

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 Car Pulling When Accelerating

Uneven Tyre Pressure & Wear Patterns

The most common and easily fixable cause of a car pulling to one side is uneven tyre pressure. When tyres on one side have lower pressure than the other, your vehicle naturally pulls toward the side with less air because the [underinflated tyre](#) creates more rolling resistance and a smaller effective radius.

Check your [tyre pressure](#) with a gauge when tyres are cold and compare the readings to the manufacturer's specifications typically found on a sticker inside the driver's door jamb. Even a 5–6 PSI difference between the left and right sides can cause noticeable pulling.

Beyond pressure, [uneven tyre wear patterns](#) affect handling and can cause pulling—tyres with different tread depths essentially have different diameters, making your car favour one direction.

This commonly happens when tyres haven't been rotated regularly or after replacing only two tyres instead of all four.

Wheel Alignment Problems After Impact

Wheel alignment issues rank among the most prevalent causes of pulling, especially after hitting potholes, kerbs, or driving on rough roads.

Proper alignment requires precise positioning of wheels relative to each other and the road surface, measured through camber, caster, and toe angles.

When these angles become skewed, even slightly, your vehicle will pull toward the side with the most significant misalignment.

Damaged Steering Components

Worn steering components can create a persistent pull even when driving on perfectly flat roads.

When tie rods, ball joints, or control arm bushings deteriorate, they change the geometry of your steering system, causing an imbalance that pulls your vehicle in one direction.

A sagging or broken spring can also cause pulling toward the affected side because the spring supports your vehicle's weight, and when compromised, that corner sits lower than the others, creating a weight distribution imbalance.

Torque Steer in Front-Wheel Drive Vehicles

If you drive a front-wheel drive vehicle, you might experience torque steer, a pulling sensation during hard acceleration.

This happens because power transfers through the same wheels that handle steering, and when power delivery isn't perfectly balanced between left and right drive axles, your car pulls slightly.

While some degree of torque steer is normal, excessive pulling indicates potential problems with Constant Velocity (CV) joints, axle integrity, or differential operation. Minor torque steer doesn't require repair, but understanding this characteristic helps distinguish it from serious mechanical issues.

Primary Causes of Car Pulling During Braking

When your car pulls specifically during braking, it signals potential problems within your brake system that require immediate attention. Brake-related pulling is particularly dangerous because it affects your ability to stop safely and predictably.



Caption: Brake-related pulling creates dangerous stopping conditions that require immediate professional diagnosis and repair.

Alt text: A car stuck in muddy waters.

Stuck Brake Callipers

Brake callipers can stick in the engaged position, failing to release completely when you lift your foot off the brake pedal. This creates constant friction on one wheel, generating heat and drag that pulls your vehicle toward that side.

Signs of stuck callipers include a burning smell, excessive heat from one wheel, or accelerated wear on just one brake pad. This condition requires immediate professional attention.

Uneven Brake Pad Wear

When brake pads wear unevenly between the left and right sides, your car can pull dramatically when braking. The side with more pad material creates a stronger braking force, pulling your vehicle in that direction.

This imbalance commonly occurs when callipers aren't maintaining even pressure, slide pins are seized, or previous brake work was performed incorrectly.

Warped Rotors & Other Brake Issues

Rotors can become warped due to excessive heat, creating uneven braking force as the pad makes contact with high and low spots during rotation. You can often detect warped rotors by feeling vibration through the brake pedal during braking.

Contaminated brake fluid with water or air can also cause inconsistent brake performance, including pulling to one side, requiring professional brake system service.

DIY Checks Before Visiting a Mechanic

How to Properly Check Tyre Pressure

Begin by checking tyre pressure when tyres are cold using a quality pressure gauge. Check all four tyres against the manufacturer's specifications found on the driver's door jamb sticker, not the maximum pressure printed on the tyre sidewall.

Adjust pressure to match specifications exactly, ensuring equal pressure between left and right sides. After correcting the pressure, drive for at least 10–15 kilometres before evaluating whether the pulling issue has been resolved.

Simple Test Drive Techniques

Conduct a methodical test drive on a straight, flat, empty road. Drive at a steady 50–70 km/h, then carefully release the steering wheel momentarily to see how quickly the car drifts.

Try swapping the front tyres side-to-side; if the pull switches directions after the swap, you've confirmed the issue is tyre-related rather than alignment or suspension problems.

Maintain Perfect Balance with Ordiniq's Professional Tyre Care



Caption: Ordiniq's AutoPump ensures precise tyre pressure balance that prevents pulling caused by uneven inflation between sides.

Alt text: Ordiniq's AutoPump.

At Ordiniq, we provide the precision tools needed to eliminate the most common cause of vehicle pulling through accurate tyre pressure management.

Precision Pressure Balance Prevention

At Ordiniq, our [AutoPump](#) ensures exact tyre pressure maintenance that eliminates pulling caused by pressure imbalances between sides.

The digital display shows precise PSI readings, allowing you to maintain identical pressure across all tyres rather than relying on guesswork or inaccurate [petrol station](#) gauges.

The intelligent auto shut-off prevents overinflation while ensuring each tyre receives exactly the pressure specified by your vehicle manufacturer.

Comprehensive Pressure Monitoring

Regular pressure monitoring with professional-grade equipment helps identify slow leaks or gradual pressure loss that can develop into pulling problems over time.

The AutoPump's 150 PSI capacity handles all vehicle types—from [exercise balls](#) to [motorcycles](#)—while multiple charging options (e.g., USB C lead, UK plug adapter, 12V car lead) ensure availability when needed.

Essential Safety Features

When your car pulls unexpectedly, roadside assessment becomes critical for both diagnosis and safety. The AutoPump's built-in LED system features bright white lighting that illuminates your work area for precise tyre pressure checks and visual inspection of components, even in complete darkness.

The emergency red SOS mode creates a highly visible warning signal that alerts passing motorists to your presence, providing essential protection while you investigate pressure imbalances, inspect tyres for damage, or perform emergency repairs that could be causing your vehicle's pulling issues.

Complete Vehicle Maintenance

Our integrated approach includes the AutoPump for tyre pressure management, [Handheld Wired Car Vacuum Cleaner](#) for interior maintenance, and [Tyre Repair Kit](#) for emergency puncture repairs.

This comprehensive system ensures your vehicle maintains optimal performance across all critical systems.

UK Warranty & Customer Service

Every AutoPump comes backed by our full 90-day money-back guarantee and dedicated 24/7 UK customer support team. The package includes bonus tyre pressure monitoring caps worth £19.99 that actively alert you to dangerous pressure loss before it affects vehicle control or safety.

Join over 10,000 satisfied UK drivers who rely on Ordiniq's precision tools for professional-grade vehicle maintenance and roadside emergency preparedness.

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can low tyre pressure on one side make my car pull?

Yes, even a 5–6 PSI difference between left and right tyres can cause noticeable pulling, as your vehicle will naturally drift toward the side with lower pressure because that tyre creates more rolling resistance and has a smaller effective diameter.

This is why checking tyre pressure is always the first recommended step when diagnosing a pulling problem.

Why does my car only pull when I accelerate hard?

When pulling occurs specifically during hard acceleration, it's typically caused by torque steer in front-wheel drive vehicles, where unequal forces are applied through the drive axles.

This is often normal behaviour, especially in higher-powered front-wheel drive cars, though severe or recently developed pulling could indicate worn CV joints, engine mount issues, or differential problems requiring professional attention.

Is it dangerous to drive with a car that pulls to one side?

Driving with a car that pulls presents significant safety risks as the constant correction required increases driver fatigue and reduces reaction time in emergencies. Many causes of pulling, particularly brake system issues, are progressive and worsen over time, potentially leading to complete brake failure if left unaddressed.

Severe pulling should be addressed immediately, while even minor pulling should be diagnosed within 2 weeks to prevent expensive component damage.

How does proper tyre pressure prevent pulling problems?

Correct and balanced tyre pressure ensures equal rolling resistance and contact patch between left and right sides, preventing the natural drift that occurs when one side has different inflation levels.

The [Ordiniq AutoPump](#) maintains ideal tyre pressure with digital precision, preventing the most common cause of vehicle pulling while supporting optimal handling, reduced tyre wear, and improved fuel efficiency.