



Car Pulls to One Side — What It Usually Is

How real visits for pulling ended at independent shops across the US — the part actually replaced, how often, and what it cost when it was the only fix.

Brake pads or tie rod

About a third of all these visits end in one of these two

Brake pads **\$223 – \$554**

Tie rod **\$222 – \$504**

typical cost when it was the only fix
(parts + labor)

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Brake pads	18.9%	\$223 – \$554	\$355
Tie rod	15.4%	\$222 – \$504	\$329
Brake rotors	11.6%	\$194 – \$447	\$303
Ball joint	10.8%	\$288 – \$713	\$454
Control arm	9.9%	\$387 – \$926	\$599
Brake caliper	8.6%	\$125 – \$359	\$221
Steering component	8.6%	\$195 – \$629	\$357
Wheel bearing / hub	8.2%	\$321 – \$623	\$445
Brake hose	7.8%	\$124 – \$317	\$200
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — tire pressure, dragging brakes, worn suspension bushings	varies	—

*Share of visits whose repair involved this part; combined repairs count toward each part, so shares overlap and don't add to 100%.

†Middle half of real invoices when this was the only fix — parts + labor, all vehicle types.

WHICH ONE IS YOURS? LISTEN FIRST

- **Pulls that follow the tires** — Swap the front tires side to side: if the pull follows, it's the tire (conicity or uneven wear), not the car.
- **Pull after hitting a pothole** — New pull after an impact is knocked-out alignment — and the impact may have bent something in the suspension, which the alignment rack will reveal.
- **Pull with a hot wheel** — A pull plus one wheel radiating heat (or a burning smell) is a dragging brake caliper — fix it now, before it takes the rotor and pads with it.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

Expect tire pressures checked and an alignment measurement before anything else — a pull is usually alignment or tires. A pull when braking points at a caliper or hose on one side. Suspension parts are quoted when the alignment can't be brought to spec without them.

ABOUT THIS DATA · HOW TO USE THIS BRIEF

Vehicles **all makes and models, US fleet**

Data confidence **High** — *large sample, stable shares*

Records through **July 2026**, refreshed continuously

Source **paid invoices from independent US repair shops**

Take it to the shop. It tells you what the likely answers are and what each one should cost — so when the diagnosis comes back, you already know whether the number fits. Vehicle-specific price reports for the common fixes are on fixdozer.com.