# Wheel Alignment Angles

Camber and toe are adjustable on the front suspension systems. Front camber is adjusted through the use of a service repair kit (3C396). Caster is preset at the factory and should only be adjusted, through the use of a service repair kit (3C396), after all other possible sources have been inspected and corrected as necessary. Front toe is adjusted by the use of the front wheel spindle tie rod.

### Camber

## **Negative and Positive Camber**



Camber is the vertical tilt of the wheel when viewed from the front. Camber can be positive or negative and has a direct effect on tire wear.

### Caster



Item	Description
1	True vertical
2	Positive caster angle

3	Strut centerline
4	Pivot centerline

Caster is the deviation from vertical of an imaginary line drawn through the pivot points (top of strut and lower ball joint), when viewed from the side. The caster specifications in this section will give the vehicle the best directional stability characteristics when loaded and driven. The caster setting is not related to tire wear.

## Тое

# Positive Toe (Toe In)



# Negative Toe (Toe Out)



The vehicle toe setting affects tire wear and directional stability.

# Incorrect Thrust Angle (Dogtracking)



ltem	Description
1	Vehicle centerline
2	Axle centerline
3	Thrust angle

Incorrect thrust angle (also known as dogtracking) is the condition in which the rear axle is not square to the chassis. Heavily crowned roads can give the illusion of dogtracking.

#### Wander

Wander is the tendency of the vehicle to require frequent, random left and right steering wheel corrections to maintain a straight path down a level road.

#### Shimmy

Shimmy, as observed by the driver, is large, consistent, rotational oscillations of the steering wheel resulting from large, side-to-side (lateral) tire/wheel movements.

Shimmy is usually experienced near 64 km/h (40 mph), and can begin or be amplified when the tire contacts pot holes or irregularities in the road surface.

#### Nibble

Sometimes confused with shimmy, nibble is a condition resulting from tire interaction with various road surfaces and observed by the driver as small rotational oscillations of the steering wheel. For wheel and tire diagnosis, refer to <u>Section 204-04</u>.

### Poor Returnability/Sticky Steering

Poor returnability and sticky steering is used to describe the poor return of the steering wheel to center after a turn or steering correction is completed.

## Drift/Pull

Pull is a tugging sensation, felt in the steering wheel, that must be overcome to keep the vehicle going straight.

Drift describes what a vehicle with this condition does with hands off the steering wheel.

• Drift/pull may be induced by conditions external to the vehicle (that is, wind, road camber).

### **Poor Groove Feel**

Poor groove feel is characterized by little or no buildup of turning effort felt in the steering wheel as the wheel is rocked slowly left and right within very small turns around center or straight-ahead (under 20 degrees of steering wheel turn). Efforts may be said to be "flat on center."

- Under 20 degrees of turn, most of the turning effort that builds up comes from the mesh of gear teeth in the steering gear. In this range, the steering wheel is not yet turned enough to feel the effort from the self-aligning forces at the road wheel or tire patch.
- In the diagnosis of a handling problem, it is important to understand the difference between wander and poor groove feel.