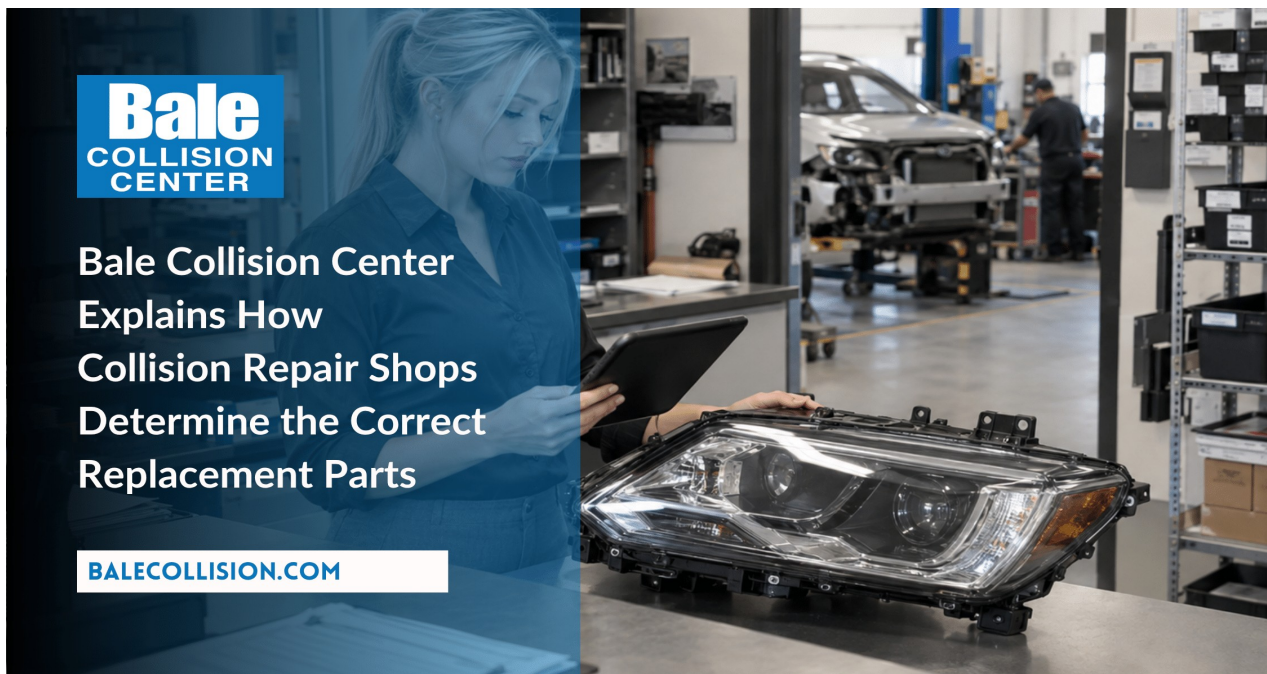




**Bale Collision Center
Explains How
Collision Repair Shops
Determine the Correct
Replacement Parts**

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Bale Collision Center Explains How Collision Repair Shops Determine the Correct Replacement Parts

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Bale Collision Center has published consumer guidance explaining how collision repair facilities identify replacement parts for accident-damaged vehicles. The September resource introduces a four-step framework covering vehicle identification, repair-versus-replacement decisions, component compatibility, and claim and availability considerations.

The guidance expands on Bale Collision Center's collision repair information by addressing a common misconception about parts ordering. Identifying a replacement component can require more information than the vehicle's make and model because vehicles within the same model line can differ by model year, trim level, production configuration, installed equipment, and technology.

The first step is identifying the specific vehicle and damaged component. Repair planners can use the Vehicle Identification Number, along with other vehicle information, to determine the configuration being repaired.

This becomes important when components are available in multiple versions. Bumpers, grilles, mirrors, headlamps, windshields, and other parts can differ in mounting locations, openings, electronics, or compatibility even when they appear similar from the exterior.

A bumper area, for example, can incorporate brackets, wiring, parking sensors, radar equipment, trim, or other components depending on the vehicle. Headlamp assemblies can also vary according to the lighting equipment installed on a particular configuration. Accurate identification helps establish which component corresponds with the vehicle before installation is considered.

The second step is determining whether replacement is necessary. Collision damage does not automatically require every affected component to be replaced. Repairability depends on the component, material, location and extent of damage, and applicable repair information.

Manufacturer procedures can provide vehicle-specific direction about repair limitations, replacement requirements, structural operations, joining methods, corrosion protection, and other procedures. The repair plan can use that information together with the documented condition of the component to determine the appropriate approach.

Bale Collision Center's auto body repair information provides additional context about component repair and replacement within the broader body repair process.

The third step is establishing compatibility when replacement is required. Replacement components can include original equipment manufacturer parts, aftermarket parts, or recycled original components, depending on the repair and circumstances.

These categories are not automatically interchangeable for every vehicle or component. The relevant consideration is whether the selected part corresponds with the individual vehicle and the requirements of the repair.

This is particularly important when a component is connected with other vehicle systems. Cameras, radar units, parking sensors, wiring, and other equipment can be located in or near bumpers, grilles, mirrors, windshields, and other commonly repaired areas. The selected component must account for the configuration of the vehicle and any applicable procedures associated with the affected systems.

Structural components can require similar vehicle-specific research. Modern vehicle bodies can incorporate different materials and component designs, making identification of both the replacement part and its installation procedure part of the same repair-planning process.

The presence of advanced driver-assistance technology does not mean that replacing a nearby component automatically requires calibration. Diagnostic or calibration operations depend on the vehicle's installed systems, the components affected, the work performed, and applicable vehicle-specific procedures.

The fourth step covers insurance provisions and parts availability. When collision repairs involve an insurance claim, parts identified on an estimate can vary according to the individual policy, insurer requirements, documented repair needs, applicable manufacturer information, and circumstances of the claim.

Bale Collision Center states that it prioritizes OEM parts when appropriate and available, while recognizing that actual parts usage can depend on vehicle requirements and claim-specific factors. When repair information identifies a reason for a particular component, that information can become part of the documentation associated with the repair plan.

Availability becomes relevant after the appropriate component has been identified. Parts availability can vary by vehicle, model year, manufacturer, component, and supplier inventory. The timing required to obtain a part is therefore separate from determining which part belongs on the vehicle.

The September guidance also explains why parts requirements can change after an initial estimate. Some collision-related conditions become accessible only after damaged or obstructing components are removed. When additional damage is documented, the repair plan and associated parts requirements can be revised to reflect the newly identified conditions.

The distinctive focus of the new resource is the sequence behind parts selection. Rather than treating the decision as a simple choice among OEM, aftermarket, and recycled components, the guidance places parts categories later in the process. The vehicle is identified first, repairability is evaluated, compatibility is established, and claim and availability considerations are then incorporated into the repair plan.

This sequence gives consumers a clearer way to understand why two visually similar vehicles can require different replacement components after comparable accidents. Differences in configuration, installed technology, damaged components, applicable repair procedures, insurance provisions, and individual claim circumstances can affect the final parts plan.

Information about Bale Collision Center and its facility is available through the Chenal location resource.

The central point of the September guidance is that replacement-part selection begins with the individual vehicle and documented repair requirements rather than appearance or parts category alone. Vehicle identification, repairability, compatibility, applicable procedures, claim provisions, and availability collectively

determine which components become part of the developed repair plan.

Bale Collision Center has served the Little Rock community since 1952, providing collision and auto body repair services for accident-damaged vehicles. Its services include collision repair, auto body repair, paintless dent repair, glass replacement, ADAS services, and automotive paint and refinishing. The company operates locations serving Chenal and Downtown Little Rock. Its Chenal facility is located at 13101 Chenal Pkwy, Little Rock, AR 72211.

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Bale Collision Center

Bale Collision Center (Chenal) has provided trusted collision repair in Little Rock since 1952. Family-owned and I-CAR Gold certified, we deliver OEM repairs, dent repair, glass replacement, and insurance-friendly service.

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