



**Windshields Express Colorado Springs**

**(719) 319-3764**

# **12 Things to Know About Windshield Repair and Replacement in Colorado Springs**

As a driver in Colorado Springs, you know all too well the unique challenges our roads and climate can pose to your vehicle's windshield. From hail storms to relentless dust and debris, it's no wonder that windshield damage is a common occurrence. But don't let a cracked or chipped windshield leave you feeling frustrated and unsafe. At Windshields Express, we're here to guide you through the process of getting your windshield back to its best condition, ensuring your safety and peace of mind on the road.

## **1. The Unique Challenges of Colorado on Windshields**

Colorado's diverse climate and terrain can be tough on your vehicle's windshield. Sudden temperature fluctuations, from blistering summer heat to bone-chilling winter cold, can cause auto glass to expand and contract, leading to stress cracks. Additionally, the abundance of gravel and debris on our roads increases the

risk of chips and dings from flying rocks. Even hail storms can wreak havoc on your windshield, leaving it pockmarked and compromised.

### **1.1. Extreme Weather Conditions**

Colorado Springs weather patterns can be unpredictable, with sudden temperature changes and severe storms that can take a toll on your windshield. From the scorching summer sun to the frigid winter winds, your vehicle's glass is constantly under stress, making it more susceptible to cracks and chips.

### **1.2. Hazardous Road Conditions**

The roads in Colorado Springs can be a minefield for your windshield. Gravel, construction debris, and other objects kicked up by passing vehicles can all become projectiles, leaving you with unwanted dings and cracks. Navigating these hazardous conditions requires a proactive approach to windshield maintenance.

## **2. Your Car Windshield is Integral to Your Safety**

Your car's windshield is more than just a transparent barrier between you and the elements – it's a crucial component of your vehicle's safety system. Designed to protect you and your passengers in the event of a collision, a damaged windshield can compromise the effectiveness of your airbags and even put the structural integrity of your vehicle at risk.

### **2.1. Windshield as a Structural Component**

The windshield is not just a window – it's an integral part of your vehicle's structural frame. In the event of a rollover or side impact, the windshield helps to maintain the overall structural integrity of the car, preventing occupants from being ejected. A damaged or weakened windshield can diminish this critical function, putting you and your passengers at risk.

### **2.2. Visibility and Driving Safety**

Your windshield plays a vital role in maintaining clear visibility while driving. Cracks, chips, and other imperfections can distort your line of sight, making it difficult to navigate the road and respond to hazards. Addressing windshield damage promptly is essential for ensuring your safety and the safety of those around you.

## **3. Importance of Prompt Windshield Repair**

When it comes to windshield damage, time is of the essence. A small chip or crack may seem like a minor inconvenience, but if left unattended, it can quickly escalate into a larger, more costly problem. Prompt windshield repair not only preserves the structural integrity of your vehicle but also helps to prevent further damage and maintain optimal visibility.

### **3.1. Preventing Crack Propagation**

A single chip or crack in your windshield can quickly spread, becoming larger and more intrusive if not addressed. By acting quickly and getting the damage repaired, you can prevent the crack from spreading and potentially compromising the entire windshield.

### **3.2. Maintaining Structural Integrity**

Windshield damage, even if seemingly minor, can weaken the overall structural integrity of your vehicle. Prompt repair helps to restore the strength and stability of the windshield, ensuring it can continue to provide the necessary protection in the event of an accident.

### **3.3. Avoiding Costly Replacement**

Addressing windshield damage early on can often be more cost-effective than waiting for the problem to worsen and requiring a full replacement. By taking proactive steps, you can save money and avoid the hassle of a more extensive repair.

## **4. Is it Legal in Colorado to Drive with a Broken Windshield?**

In Colorado, the laws surrounding driving with a damaged windshield are clear – it's generally not legal to operate a vehicle with a cracked or chipped windshield that obstructs the driver's vision. The specific regulations vary, but it's essential to understand the potential consequences of hitting the road with a compromised windshield.

### **4.1. Legal Requirements for Windshield Condition**

Colorado's vehicle inspection laws stipulate that a windshield must be free of cracks, chips, or other defects that could impair the driver's vision. Depending on the size, location, and severity of the damage, your vehicle may fail inspection and you could face fines or other penalties.

### **4.2. Potential Consequences of Driving with a Damaged Windshield**

Ignoring a cracked or chipped windshield and continuing to drive can have serious consequences. In addition to the risk of a failed vehicle inspection, you could be pulled over and cited for driving with an obstructed view, which can result in fines and other penalties. More importantly, you're putting yourself and others on the road in danger by compromising your visibility and the structural integrity of your vehicle.

## **5. Types and Causes of Damage to Vehicle Windshields**

Windshields can sustain a wide range of damage, from small chips and cracks to more extensive breaks and fractures. Understanding the different types of windshield damage and their underlying causes can help you better prepare for and address any issues that arise.

### **5.1. Rock Chips and Cracks**

One of the most common forms of windshield damage, rock chips and cracks are typically caused by small debris or projectiles striking the glass. These can range from tiny dings to long, spiderwebbing cracks that can quickly spread if left untreated.

### **5.2. Bullseye, Star, and Combination Breaks**

More severe forms of windshield damage include bullseye breaks, which are circular with concentric rings; star breaks, with radiating legs; and combination breaks that feature a mix of these patterns. These types of damage are often the result of a more significant impact, such as a collision or a large object striking the windshield.

### **5.3. Stress Cracks and Edge Cracks**

Stress cracks and edge cracks are caused by temperature fluctuations or structural stress on the windshield. These single, straight-line cracks can start near the edges of the glass and gradually spread inward, compromising the windshield's integrity.

### **5.4. Causes of Windshield Damage**

In addition to the types of damage, it's important to understand the underlying causes. Common culprits include road debris, hail storms, temperature changes, and even improper installation or maintenance. By being aware of these factors, you can take proactive steps to protect your windshield and address any issues that arise.

## 6. Windshield Repair vs Replacement: Key Factors

Regarding windshield damage, you have two main options: repair or replacement. The choice between the two will depend on several key factors, including the size, location, and severity of the damage, as well as the overall condition of the windshield.

### 6.1. Repairable Windshield Damage

Generally, small chips and cracks that are limited in size and location can be effectively repaired. These types of damages are typically less than an inch in diameter and do not significantly obstruct the driver's line of sight. Repairing these issues can help restore the structural integrity of the windshield and prevent further cracking or spreading.

### 6.2. When Replacement is Necessary

For more extensive or severe windshield damage, replacement may be the best course of action. Larger cracks, multiple chips or cracks, or damage that impairs the driver's visibility may require a full windshield replacement to ensure the safety and integrity of the vehicle.

### 6.3. Factors Influencing the Decision

In addition to the size and location of the damage, other factors that can influence the decision to repair or replace a windshield include the age and condition of the existing glass, the vehicle's make and model, and the availability of replacement parts. Your trusted Windshields Express technicians will carefully assess the situation and provide you with the best recommendation to address your specific needs.

## 7. What is the Time and Cost of Repairing a Rock Chip in a Windshield?

The time and cost of any particular windshield repair can vary depending on several factors.

### 7.1. Repair Process Timeline

The windshield repair process typically takes less than an hour to complete. A skilled windshield technician will carefully evaluate the damage, clean the affected area, and use specialized tools to inject a clear resin into the small crack or chip. This resin helps to fill the void and restore the structural integrity of the glass.

Once the resin is cured, the repaired area will be polished to blend seamlessly with the rest of the windshield.

## **7.2. Cost of Windshield Chip Repair**

The cost of repairing a rock chip or small crack in your windshield can range from \$50 to \$150, depending on the size and location of the damage. At Windshields Express, we believe in providing transparent and affordable pricing, so you can rest assured that you'll receive a fair and competitive quote for your repair needs.

## **7.3. Advantages of Prompt Chip Repair**

Addressing a rock chip in your windshield as soon as possible can save you money in the long run. By acting quickly, you can prevent the chip from spreading and potentially requiring a more expensive full windshield replacement. Plus, a repaired windshield maintains its structural integrity and visibility, keeping you and your passengers safe on the road.

# **8. How Long Does It Take to Replace a Windshield?**

If a full windshield replacement is necessary, you may be wondering how long the process will take. At Windshields Express, we understand that your time is valuable, so we strive to provide efficient and timely service to get you back on the road as soon as possible.

## **8.1. Windshield Replacement Timeline**

The windshield replacement process typically takes between 1 to 2 hours to complete. Our experienced technicians will carefully remove the old windshield, clean the frame, and install the new, OEM-quality glass. Depending on the specific make and model of your vehicle, the process may take slightly longer, but we always work to minimize any disruption to your schedule.

## **8.2. Curing Time for the Adhesive**

After the new windshield is installed, the adhesive used to secure it will need time to fully cure and set. This curing process can take up to 24 hours, during which time you'll need to avoid excessive force or pressure on the windshield. Our team will provide you with clear instructions on how to care for your new windshield during this critical period.

### **8.3. Minimizing Downtime**

At Windshields Express, we understand that a windshield replacement can be an inconvenience, which is why we offer flexible scheduling options and work efficiently to get you back on the road as soon as possible. We'll work with your schedule to ensure that the process is as seamless and hassle-free as possible.

## **9. What is Windshield Calibration and Why is it Necessary?**

In today's modern vehicles, the windshield plays a crucial role in the operation of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS). These systems, such as lane departure warning and automatic emergency braking, rely on sensors and cameras mounted on the windshield to function properly. When a windshield is replaced, it's essential to ensure that these systems are properly calibrated to maintain their effectiveness and your safety.

### **9.1. Understanding Windshield Calibration**

Windshield calibration is the process of aligning and testing the ADAS sensors and cameras to ensure they are accurately collecting and interpreting data. This is necessary after a windshield replacement to ensure that the new glass does not interfere with the system's performance.

### **9.2. Importance of Proper Calibration**

Proper calibration of the ADAS systems is essential for maintaining your vehicle's safety features. If the sensors and cameras are not properly aligned, they may not function as intended, potentially leading to false warnings or even a failure to detect hazards on the road.

### **9.3. Windshields Express and Calibration Services**

At Windshields Express, we provide on-site ADAS calibration. Our team of certified technicians is equipped with the necessary tools and expertise to ensure that your vehicle's systems are properly calibrated after a windshield replacement. This gives you the peace of mind of knowing that your advanced safety features are functioning at their best.

## **10. Mobile Windshield Repair vs. In-the-Shop Windshield Repair**

For windshield repair that does not require recalibration, you have the option of either mobile repair or visiting an auto glass shop. Each approach has its own advantages, and the choice will depend on your specific needs and preferences.

## **10.1. Mobile Windshield Repair**

Mobile windshield repair services, like those offered by Windshields Express, bring the repair directly to you. This can be especially convenient if you have a busy schedule or prefer the comfort of having the work done at your home or workplace. Mobile technicians are equipped with the necessary tools and materials to perform high-quality repairs on-site. Please note that rain and freezing temperatures can interfere with windshield repairs conducted outside.

## **10.2. Auto Glass Shop Windshield Repair**

Visiting an auto glass shop, such as our Windshields Express location in Colorado Springs, can also be a viable option. These dedicated facilities often have a wider range of repair and replacement services, as well as the ability to handle more complex or extensive damage. Additionally, auto glass shops may have the necessary equipment and expertise for ADAS calibration.

## **10.3. Choosing the Right Option**

When deciding between mobile or in-shop windshield repair, consider factors such as your schedule, the severity of the damage, the weather and the need for any additional services like ADAS calibration. Our Windshields Express team can help you evaluate your options and determine the best solution to address your specific needs.

# **11. The Costs of Windshield Repair, Replacement and Recalibration**

The costs of windshield services can vary depending on a number of factors. At Windshields Express, we believe in providing transparent and competitive pricing, so you can make an informed decision about the best course of action for your vehicle.

## **11.1. Windshield Repair Costs**

As mentioned earlier, the cost of repairing a rock chip or small crack in your windshield can range from \$50 to \$150. This relatively affordable option can often be the best choice for addressing minor damage and preventing it from escalating into a more costly replacement.

## **11.2. Windshield Replacement Costs**



The cost of a full windshield replacement can range from \$200 to \$500 or more, depending on the make and model of your vehicle, the type of glass required, and any additional services needed, such as ADAS calibration.

### **11.3. ADAS Calibration Costs**

If your vehicle is equipped with advanced driver assistance systems, the calibration process after a windshield replacement can add an additional \$100 to \$300 to the overall cost. This investment helps ensure that your safety features continue to function as intended.

### **11.4. Factors Affecting Costs**

The final cost for windshield repair, replacement, or recalibration can be influenced by factors such as the availability of replacement parts, the complexity of the job, and any applicable insurance coverage or deductibles.

## **12. Insurance Coverage for Windshield Repair and Replacement**

Understanding your insurance coverage can be a crucial factor in determining the best course of action and managing the associated costs of addressing windshield damage.

### **12.1. Comprehensive Coverage**

Many auto insurance policies include comprehensive coverage, which can help offset the costs of windshield repair or replacement. Depending on your specific policy, you may be able to have the work done with little to no out-of-pocket expense.

### **12.2. Deductibles and Waivers**

It's important to be aware of your policy's deductible requirements and any potential waivers for windshield-related claims. In some cases, your insurance provider may waive the deductible for windshield repairs, making the process even more cost-effective.

### **12.3. Working with Your Insurance Provider**

At Windshields Express, we're here to guide you through the insurance claims process. Our team can help you navigate the paperwork, communicate with your provider, and ensure that you receive the maximum coverage and benefits available to you.

## Conclusion: Trust the Experts at Windshields Express

If you want to keep your vehicle's windshield in top condition, the team at Windshields Express is here to help. With our expertise, state-of-the-art equipment, and commitment to customer satisfaction, we'll ensure your windshield is properly maintained and repaired, no matter the challenge Colorado Springs unique climate and roads present. Our mobile services make it convenient to address any windshield issues, whether you're at home, work, or on the go.

Our technicians are highly trained and certified, using advanced techniques and premium materials to deliver long-lasting, high-quality results. From small rock chips to complete replacements, we have the expertise to handle any windshield repair or replacement need with efficiency and care.

But our commitment to you goes beyond just the technical aspects. We understand the stress and inconvenience that come with windshield damage, which is why we strive to provide a hassle-free experience from start to finish. Our transparent pricing, flexible scheduling, and personalized attention ensure you feel informed and empowered throughout the process.

Whether you need a quick chip repair or a full windshield replacement, trust the experts at Windshields Express to keep you and your passengers safe on Colorado's roads. Contact us today to schedule your appointment and experience the difference our dedication and expertise can make.



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**Hours of operation: Mon - Fri 8 am - 5 pm**