Complete and accurate collision damage evaluation is the basis for efficient body shop repairs. Although body damage may differ from one vehicle to another, the following basic evaluation steps should always be taken to insure consistent high quality repair results:

**DAMAGE EVALUATION CHECKLIST**

- Check the overall appearance of the vehicle to determine—
  - The size and direction of impact
  - The extent of primary and secondary body structure damage
  - The overall twisting, bending or slanting of the vehicle

- Check the vehicle closely along the main impact path (primary damage) looking for—
  - Broken, split, bent or dented components
  - Cracked or peeled paint, sealer or undercoat

- Check areas not on the main impact path (secondary damage). Look for—
  - Parts gaps of the doors, windows and dashboard
  - Bulges or creases in the roof, hood, fenders, trunk and pillars

- Check for related component damage. Examine—
  - The radiator, A/C components, battery and adjacent parts
  - The steering wheel, seats, seatbelts, dashboard, electrical components and center console for cracks, bends, tears and dents
  - The trunk for sheetmetal damage caused by luggage, tools, etc.

- Check the drivetrain for damage, looking for engine oil, transmission fluid, coolant or gear oil, which may indicate engine, transmission or differential damage.

- Check body measurements for body alignment and twisting with centering gauges.

Since collision damage evaluation is such an important job within a body shop, an in-depth knowledge of vehicle construction and collision effects is essential. More information concerning vehicle construction and collision effects can be found in the Toyota Fundamental Body Repair Procedures publication (Number BRM002E).