

Is My Tire Over or Underinflated?

- Overinflation typically shows uneven wear in the center of the tire
- Underinflation typically shows uneven wear on the outer sides of the tire
- Misalignment typically shows wear on only one side of the tire

If these situations are not corrected, further tire damage is likely to occur.

Tread Depth

Tread depth can be determined using the "Penny Test", or with a depth gauge.



TIRE TREAD DEPTH CHART	
8mm TIRE TREAD	GOOD
7mm TIRE TREAD	GOOD
6mm TIRE TREAD	GOOD
5mm TIRE TREAD	OK
4mm TIRE TREAD	OK
3mm TIRE TREAD	INSPECT MONTHLY
2mm TIRE TREAD	WON'T LAST LONG
1.66mm TIRE TREAD	LEGAL LIMIT



Driving Hazardous to Your Health?

Tires are one of the most important, and often overlooked components of a vehicle. Not only are they responsible for a smooth ride, but they are also the only thing keeping the vehicle attached to the road.

Did you know that the average American spends 17,600 minutes per year (that's 293 hours or 12.5 days) driving a vehicle? That's a lot of time spent atop rotating rubber that is being worn away every time you drive. Have you checked yours lately?

Tire Inflation – Unfortunately, "kicking the tires" or eye-balling them, is not a reliable form to check the pressure. Use an accurate tire pressure gauge, ideally your personal one, and determine your tire pressure. Gauges at service stations can be inaccurate due to exposure or abuse. Under inflation is the leading cause of tire failure, so check inflation pressure regularly. Proper inflation pressures are usually found on the driver's doorjamb or fuel-filler lid. Remember, heat causes air pressure to increase, so check tires only when they are cold.

Don't forget your spare! Getting a flat tire and discovering that your spare is flat too is a miserable experience. Inspect your spare as you would your other tires. If you have a compact spare, the inflation pressure will usually be written on the tire.

Check for Wear – Did you know there is actually a legal limit on tread wear? It's 1/16", or 1.6mm. You can quickly check tread depth by placing a penny upside down in the tread. If you can see the top of Abe's head, you need new tires. You should also inspect the sides of the tires for nicks, bulges, cracks, and cuts. Look for any stones, bits of glass, metal, nails, or other foreign objects wedged in the tread. These may work deeper into the tire and cause air loss. Uneven wear patterns may be caused by improper inflation pressure, misalignment, improper balance, or suspension neglect.

Proper Vehicle Loading – Heavy loads require heavy suspensions; this includes tire capacity! Look on the side of the tire; you should see the maximum load capacity of the tire. This capacity should include the amount of weight added by the materials in the vehicle and/or the added weight from a trailer. Never exceed the maximum load rating of the tires.

Remember, tire conditions are constantly changing. Driving style, road conditions, vehicle components and weather conditions all affect the wear of tires. Check them regularly, and at a minimum when you check your oil. (You do check your oil regularly too, right?)