Tyre Safety Guide

Helping to ensure your tyres are ready for the road

1. Introduction

Your Guide to Tyre Safety

The aim of this guide is to help you to look after your tyres and to give you useful and practical advice on how to ensure that your tyres are safe and legal to be on the road.

In this guide we will provide you with helpful tips and advice on how to inspect your tyres and what to look out for to help ensure your safety.

What's in your Guide

2. Tyre Inspection

Tyre Life and Age

The life and general wear and tear of your tyres are influenced by many factors:

Driving Style – aggressive cornering and braking increases wear.

Position – front tyres wear faster because of movement through steering.

Speed – high speed driving increases temperature and hastens wear.

Pressure – both under inflation (through increased flexing and temperature) and over inflation (through reduced contact area) increase wear and lead to poor vehicle handling on the road.

Alignment – incorrect wheel alignment results in rapid and uneven wear

Excess loading can increase wear on your tyres

Visual Inspection

Lumps and Bulges: These usually tell us that the tyre has been damaged internally and immediate replacement is needed.

Cuts: If a cut is deep enough to reach the internal structure then the tyre needs to be either repaired (if possible) or replaced.

Tyre Deterioration: This happens with age and if you notice any cracking is present it indicates the rubber is perished and the structural integrity cannot be assured. The tyre should be replaced immediately.

Tread: The legal minimum tread depth is 1.6 millimetres, across the central ¾ of the tread around the complete circumference of the tyre. However, for safety reasons it is recommended that you replace your tyres before the legal limit is reached.

It is important to visually check the condition of your tyres on a regular basis

2. Tyre Inspection

Checking Tread Depth

Tyre Tread Depth: The tread depth should be measured in the principle grooves. These are the ones which contain "tread wear indicators", which are raised sections in the base of the groove. They are usually 1.6mm to 2.0mm above the base of the groove.

Grooves: Measure each groove depth across the tread width and in several places around the tyre circumference

Braking distances: Braking distances on wet roads increase as the tread pattern depth reduces. To maintain an adequate safety margin we recommend replacing tyres when the tread depth reaches 2.0mm

Create a safe environment: Try to carry out the check away from traffic, parking on a level surface if possible. Work in a well-lit setup, making sure to carry out your check in good lighting conditions.

Narrow bands in the tread grooves that when the tread wears down provides a visual warning a tyre needs changing.

Tyre Pressure

The correct pressure for tyres can usually be found in the vehicle handbook and can help to extend the life of your tyre, improve vehicle safety and maintain fuel efficiency. Tyre pressure is usually measured in pounds per square inch (psi) or bar pressure.

It's not always apparent that air is being lost, but it generally escapes at the rate of up to two pounds of air every month. More air is usually lost during warm weather, so more regular checks are needed when temperatures rise.

Always check tyre pressures when the tyres are cold

2. Tyre Inspection

Top Tips

Top Tips

For checking tyre tread if you don't have a tread-depth gauge use a ten pence coin to see if you have at least 1.6 mm. The distance between the coin's outer edge and the inner dotted circle is exactly 1.6 mm. If you can see the dots sticking out of the groove it is time to get new tyres.

Manufacturers recommend that you check all the Car Tyre Pressures every 2-4 weeks and that check should include the spare

Maintain tyre changing equipment in a serviceable condition. Always ensure that your spare tyre is in good condition.

Incorrect wheel alignment can result in rapid irregular tyre wear and can even affect the handling and safety of the vehicle.

Driving over pot-holes, kerbs, speed humps etc... even at low speed can result in the weakening or fracture of the tyre's structure.

Look after your car's steering and suspension, as this will greatly affect tyre performance.

Keep tyre treads clean of stones and other foreign bodies.

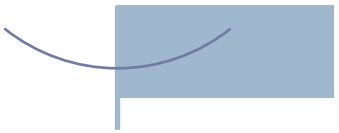
Punctures

There are several different types of methods now used following a puncture. These can vary from either having a traditional spare tyre or perhaps a space saver, to less traditional methods by having gel or even a canister to repair punctures. We would suggest that in all instances you refer to your vehicle handbook.

Fuel Efficiency

Correct wheel alignment, tyre pressure and tyre care also helps you save fuel!

If you have any suspicions about your tyres, Check it out!



Check Your Tyres!