

TIRE CARE AND SAFETY



PROPER INFLATION

The right amount of air pressure in your tire helps your tires to wear longer, save fuel and helps to prevent accidents. The correct air pressure is shown on the tire sticker attached to the vehicle door edge, door post, glove box or fuel door. If your vehicle doesn't have a sticker, check the owner's manual, or ask the vehicle manufacturer, or your local tire dealer. Check tire inflation pressure at least once a month and before any long trips. Tires must be checked when they are cold. This means, that the tire must be checked before it has been driven a mile. If you must drive over one mile for air, measure the cold inflation pressure of each tire and record the actual under inflation amount for each tire. Once you reach the service station, measure each tire's inflation again and then inflate the warm tire to the level that is equal to this warm pressure, plus the cold under inflation amount. Generally, a tire will lose one or two pounds of air per month in the cool weather and even more in warmer weather. Make sure all tire valves and extensions are equipped with valve caps with rubber gaskets to keep out dirt and moisture.

TIRE TREAD

At least 9% of passenger cars on U.S. roadways are driven with at least one bald tire. Tire tread allows the gripping action and traction that helps to prevent a vehicle from slipping and sliding. In most cases tires are not safe and should be replaced when the tread is worn to 1/16th of an inch. Tires have built-in tread wear indicators which look like narrow strips of smooth rubber across the tread. When these bars appear, the tire is worn and needs to be replaced.

Tread condition can also be checked with a Lincoln penny. Just place the penny upside down within the tread. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, the tire needs to be replaced.



PROPER VEHICLE LOADING

The tire sticker also shows the maximum load of the vehicle. It is important not to overload the vehicle. Don't forget, baggage carried on top of the vehicle counts as an additional load. Also, if you are towing a trailer, remember that some of the weight of the loaded trailer transfers to the towing vehicle. This reduces the load that can be safely placed in the towing vehicle. The only way to prevent overload is to weigh, axle by axle, the fully loaded vehicle on reliable platform scales.

TIRE INSPECTION

Make sure you inspect your tires at least once a month. Look for any stones, glass, metal or any other foreign objects that may be wedged into the tread of your tire. They may work deeper into the tire and cause air loss. If any tire needs air on a continual basis, take it off the vehicle and have it checked for leaks. The problem may be from damage to the wheel, tire or valve.



GOOD DRIVING HABITS

The way you drive has a lot to do with your tire mileage and safety. So, practice good driving habits for your own benefit.

- Observe posted speed limits
- Avoid fast starts, stops and turns
- Avoid potholes and objects on the road
- Do not run over curbs or hit the tire against the curb when parking

Information was obtained from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Tire Industry Safety Council