

Tire Safety



Tire Safety Checklist

- Check tire pressure regularly, at least once a month, and before going on a long trip. Include the spare tire when you check.
- Inspect tire treads for uneven wear patterns, cracks, foreign objects, or other signs of wear or trauma.
- Remove bits of glass and other foreign objects wedged in the tread.
- Make sure the tire valves have valve caps.
- Do not overload your vehicle limit.
- If you are towing a trailer, remember that some of the loaded trailer weight is transferred to the towing vehicle.
- Slow down if you have to go over a pothole or other object in the road.
- Do not run over curbs, and try not to strike the curb when you are parking.

Checking Tire Pressure and Vehicle Load Limit

Find the numbers for recommended tire pressure and vehicle load limit on the tire information placard and in the vehicle owner's manual. Tire placards are permanent labels attached to the vehicle door edge, doorpost, glove-box door, or inside of the trunk lid. The tire inflation number reflects the proper pounds per square inch (psi) when a tire is cold. Use the information to check tire pressure and make sure your vehicle is not overloaded. To get an accurate tire pressure reading, measure tire pressure when the car has been unused for at least three hours. Purchase a tire pressure gauge to keep in your vehicle. Gauges can be purchased at tire dealerships, auto supply stores, and other retail outlets.

Step 1: Locate the correct tire pressure on the tire information placard or in the owner's manual.

Step 2: Record the tire pressure of all tires.

Step 3: If the tire pressure is too high in any of the tires, slowly release air by gently pressing on the tire valve with the edge of your tire gauge until you get to the correct pressure.

Step 4: If the tire pressure is too low, note the difference between the measured tire pressure and the correct tire pressure. These "missing" pounds of pressure are what you will need to add.

Step 5: At a service station, add the missing pounds of air pressure to each tire that is underinflated.

Step 6: Check all the tires to make sure they have the same air pressure (except in cases in which the front and rear tires are supposed to have different amounts of pressure).

Checking Tire Tread

Tires have built-in tread wear indicators that let you know when it is time to replace them. These indicators are raised sections spaced intermittently in the bottom of the tread grooves. When they appear even with the outside of the tread, it is time to replace your tires. You can also test your tread with a Lincoln penny. Turn the penny so Lincoln's head is pointing down and insert it into the tread. If the tread doesn't cover Lincoln's head, it's time to replace your tires.