

Prevent Accidents with a Simple Tire Safety Check

A simple tire safety check can help prevent accidents, avoid breakdowns, improve vehicle handling and fuel economy, and increase tire life. Take five minutes each month to protect your vehicle and family on the road by following these simple steps.

#1 Check Tire Pressure Regularly



Tires lose air naturally over time, so it is important to check the pressure with a tire pressure gauge at least once a month and before long trips...and don't forget the spare. For an accurate tire pressure reading, measure tire pressure when the car

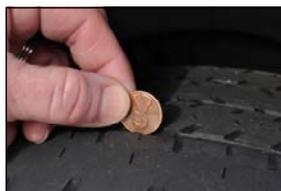
has been unused for at least three hours. Each vehicle requires a certain amount of tire pressure. Look for the recommended tire pressure and vehicle load limit for your vehicle in the owner's manual or on the permanent labels attached to the vehicle door edge, doorpost, glove-box, or inside the trunk lid.

Important Info about Tire Pressure

According to studies conducted on tire-related crashes by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the leading cause of tire failure is under inflated tires.

#2 Inspect Tire Treads

Tires have built-in tread wear indicators to let you know when it's time to place your tires. The indicators are raised sections spaced intermittently in the bottom of the tread grooves. When they appear even with the outside of the tread, it's time to replace the tire. You can also test your treads with a Lincoln penny. Insert Lincoln's head first into the tire tread. If the tread doesn't cover Lincoln's head, it is time to replace your tires.



#3 Rotate Tires on a Regular Basis

Tire rotation is essential to achieve even tread wear and maximum life of the tire. Rotate tires approximately every 6,000 miles or according to your owner's manual.

#4 Maintain Proper Tire Balance and Alignment

Out-of-balance tires or a misalignment of the steering and suspension can cause uneven tread wear, as well as affect the steering and stability of a vehicle. If you have severe thumping at highway speeds or if your car "pulls" in one direction or another when traveling straight, you should have your vehicle inspected by a professional.



#5 Install Tires in Matched Pairs or Complete Sets

If you need to replace tires, replace them in either front or rear pairs, or complete sets. Installing different tires on the left and right sides can upset the handling balance of your vehicle. When only replacing two tires, they should generally go in the back to maintain maximum traction at the rear wheels to ensure vehicle stability.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

These are just a few things you can do to protect your family and vehicle on the road. Please visit Montlick.com or HelpKeepKidsSafe.org and click on "Family Safety and Legal Tips," to see our latest safety videos and downloadable materials and to register for Free Safety Alerts.