

Business In Review



5 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR TIRES LAST

least one tire under or overinflated by more than 10 percent. Your tire pressure affects a lot more than your tire tread, although it does that as well.

“You can’t tell if your tires have enough inflation pressure just by looking at them,” the website reads. “Even though they may look fine, they may be under inflated by as much as 50 percent.” Improperly inflated tires can lead to premature wear and tear, not to mention sabotage your fuel economy and inhibit your braking ability. *The American Automobile Association* recommends checking the air pressure with a tire gauge at least once a month. Keep in mind recommended psi is for cool tires, so it’s best to check the pressure before you drive and heat up them up.

Get balanced and aligned

According to Cooper Tire, alignment is key to prolonging the life of your tires. That’s because misalignment of the wheels leads to “uneven and rapid treadwear” as you drive.

“Front-wheel-drive vehicles, and those with independent rear suspension, require alignment of all four wheels,” the website reads. “Have your alignment checked periodically as specified by the vehicle owner’s manual or whenever you have an indication of trouble such as ‘pulling’ or vibration.”

A tire service professional can ensure your car is aligned, but a few tell-tale signs will let you know if it’s not; if your car pulls to one side or vibrates at higher speeds, you might have an alignment problem.



Unbalanced tires can also lead to uneven wear, so make sure you get your tires balanced every 3,000 to 6,000 miles.

‘Dress’ them up

Your tires might get a nice little shower when you get your car washed, but are you really treating them right? A tire dressing can do a lot to extend the life of the rubber. A dressing, sold at automotive shops, not only makes your tires look shiny and new, but also protects them from harmful UV rays that could contribute to premature wear.

Rotate on time

When it comes to tires, driving isn’t a team sport. That’s because your front tires tend to take the brunt of the work, resulting wear. Rotation helps to equalize the wear across your tires, extending their life. You should plan to rotate your tires every 6,000 to 10,000 miles, according to *Edmunds.com*. While you can do this yourself, most garages offer it as an add-on service to a regular oil change.

When it comes to proper tire care, remember safety and performance are at stake. Maintaining those tires will give you a safer and more enjoyable ride — perhaps for longer than you’d think.

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