



CARING FOR YOUR TIRES

Farm Machinery Fact Sheet FM-03

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Tire care and maintenance is good safety insurance and can make a significant savings in your operations. Here are some tips to reduce tire expense and extend the life of your tires:

1. Purchase high-quality tires of the proper size for your car, truck or tractor.
2. Purchase from a reputable retail dealership that stands back of its product and offers a quality guarantee on replacement.
3. Inflate tire to pressure recommended by manufacturer. Air is most important in tire care.
4. Check tire inflation at least every two weeks and before any long trips. Check tire pressure when cool and use a reliable air pressure gauge.
5. Radial tires require a more careful pressure check than bias-ply tires because of normal sidewall bulge.
6. Vary inflation with load characteristics. Increase air pressure 4 pounds over car manufacturer's cold tire pressure, but not over the maximum inflation limit shown on tire's sidewall.
7. Never "bleed" or reduce air pressure when tires are hot. A tire's air pressure will automatically increase as its internal temperature increases.
8. Check regularly to see that tires have valve caps and that they are screwed down finger tight. This provides a seal and keeps dirt and moisture out of air valve.
9. Correct front-end alignment. This is a must and should be checked periodically. Tires and wheels should be balanced dynamically - rear wheels as well as front - "off the car" balancing is recommended.
10. Notice vibration and check for unusual wear patterns on tires. These are indications that something needs attention.
11. Watch your driving habits. Avoid slippage, fast turns, fast starts, panic stops, riding on edge of pavement, stones, curbs, chuckholes, and other obstructions.
12. Don't try to repair tires with tread punctures larger than 1/4-inch or any sidewall puncture. Never repair tires which are worn below 1/16-inch tread depth.
13. Check your spare tire for air and condition to do the job. Remember that temporary spares have speed and mileage limitations.
14. Heed manufacturer's recommendations for tire rotation on passenger cars, light trucks, front-wheel drive and four-wheel drive. Normally, rotate at 6,000 to 8,000 miles and again at 18,000 to 24,000. Inspect wear pattern closely for irregularity during rotation period.
15. Remember that a front-wheel drive vehicle will have approximately two times faster wear on front tires than rear tires because of weight, steering, stopping, torque, and

- coming.
16. Rotate tires properly. Remember radial tires are rotated same side from front to rear while bias ply tires are rotated across the car left front to right rear and right front to left rear.
 17. Learn to read these tire wear patterns as “warning signs.” Correct the indicated cause.
 - a. Feathering = toe-in or toe-out alignment.
 - b. Centerline wear = overinflation.
 - c. Outer-edge wear = under inflation.
 - d. One-side wear = excessive camber.
 - e. Cupping = wheels need balancing, shocks, or ball joints.
 18. When replacing a tire, never choose a smaller size than those which came from the vehicle manufacturer or approved options as recommended by the vehicle or tire manufacturer.
 19. Sunshine and grease and some other elements are harmful to rubber. Keep tires in dry, clean, cool sunless area and away from electric motors which generate a rubber-damaging gas.
 20. Tires of the same size, construction, and tread depth should be used in pairs on the same axle. By following this rule it is possible to mix present tires with other size designations or construction.
 21. When radial tires are used with bias or bias-belted tires on the same car, the radials should be placed on the rear axle.
 22. Tire mounting is a job for people with the proper equipment and experience. If you do it yourself, you may damage the tire and rim.
 23. New tires put on a truck, car or tractor will probably feel different when driving, so drive carefully until you are familiar with the performance and handling.

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