

Facts on tread depth

The Tyre Industry is calling for drivers to carry out simple safety checks on the tyres on their vehicles to ensure that they remain safe and comply with the law.



Tyres are the only element that connects the vehicle to the road and a tyre relies on its tread pattern to provide grip for stopping, steering and driving the vehicle along. Passenger tyres with less than 1.6mm of tread are dangerous and illegal. If a car did drive on tyres that are below this threshold, the speed at which hydroplaning begins would be reduced by up to 40%. This is one of the reasons why a tyre must be removed from service when the tread depth is at 1.6mm.

Drivers should regularly check the depth of their tyres' tread - a simple process that can be done using tread wear indicators. These indicators are built in every tyre. Many motorists do not realise that they need no special equipment to check their tyres.



A Tread Wear Indicator is a rubber moulding raised above the base of the tread groove - and when the adjacent tread has worn down to the minimum level, the tyre should be changed.

Consumers can also check their tread depth using a euro coin (20p coin for UK), whose external golden rim should be covered by the tread. All four tyres must be checked and they must be checked in each groove in at least two points.

In order to maximise performance and safety, drivers must comply with the EU tyre tread regulation. For winter tyres, national regulations, including tread depth, differ from country to country.

Furthermore, there is the need to conduct regular visual checks to make sure they are within the legal limit. Tyres should also be inflated to the correct pressure, according to the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations.



learn more by visiting:
www.tyreaware.org/tread-depth

