



When is the right time to replace your tyres?

Purchasing a new set of tyres is a necessary investment to ensure vehicle safety and maximise performance. The tyres are the only element that connects a vehicle to the road and maintaining safety means maintaining tyres.

A good, properly maintained set of tyres contributes a huge amount to the performance and economy of a vehicle and the safety benefits outweigh the cost. To not replace worn out or damaged tyres can lead to serious safety consequences.

Dealers and consumers both have a vital role to play in tyre safety and there are several factors that can compromise the safe performance of a tyre. Drivers can easily carry out most of the planned maintenance on a tyre during its service life, only referring to a specialist dealers when there is a problem, or when it is time for replacement.

Though modern tyres are strong, punctures still happen and it is crucial a tyre specialist should carry out a check to see if a punctured tyre should be scrapped or can safely be repaired.



If the tyre has any signs of fatigue then a tyre should not be on the road. There are many factors affecting how long a tyre will last, including vehicle type, surfaces and driving style, so drivers should be vigilant and carry out regular checks.

Roads are unpredictable places, sometimes strewn with sharp debris or blemished by rugged potholes that can damage a tyre. It is important to inspect for damage that any impact might have caused.

Abnormal or uneven tyre wear, may indicate a problem with wheel alignment, wheel balance or incorrect tyre pressure. Although it is sometimes not possible to know that a mechanical factor is affecting the tyres until undue wear has occurred, it is expensive to allow incorrect inflation to cause a tyre to wear badly or quickly.

For best performance, the same type of tyre should be fitted in all four wheel positions and any difference in recommended pressures between front and rear and load conditions should be adhered to. This is very important when switching from your summer to winter tyres.

It is essential that consumers check their tyres often and also have them inspected regularly by specialists or immediately if they spot any damage or ageing.

Smart motorists get the most out of their tyres and their vehicle by performing regular maintenance which also includes recognising when they should be replaced.

The EU's legal limit for passenger car tyres tread depth is 1.6mm.

EU law ensures passenger cars, commercial vehicles and trailers are inspected regularly, through technical and roadside inspections. Tyres should also be checked during these inspections.

The following conditions are reasons for failure of roadworthiness tests³:

- Fitment of incorrect tyre size, overloading, missing or wrong approval mark, category not in accordance with requirements and affecting road safety
- Insufficient load capacity or speed category for actual use
- Tyres on same axle or on twin wheels of different size
- Tyres on same axle of different construction (radial/cross-ply)
- Any serious damage or cut to a tyre
- Cord visible or damaged
- Tyre tread wear indicator becomes exposed
- Tyre tread depth not in accordance with the requirements
- Tyre touches other fixed vehicle parts impairing safe driving
- Tyre rubbing against other components (flexible anti-spray devices)
- Tyre rubbing against other components (safe driving not impaired)
- Re-grooved tyres not in accordance with requirements
- Cord protection layer affected
- Tyre pressure monitoring system malfunctioning or tyre obviously underinflated
- Tyre pressure monitoring system obviously inoperative.

³Directive 2014/45/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers and repealing Directive 2009/40/ECC