

# SUMMERTIME IS SUMMER TIRE CHECK TIME

## 7 TIPS TO COMBAT **11,000** + TIRE-RELATED ACCIDENTS ANNUALLY AND KEEP TIRES ROLLING FOR LONGER

U.S. drivers put almost **3 billion miles** on their tires a year and summer conditions can increase accident risk; for National Tire Safety Month AutoPartsWarehouse.com offers important tips for tire safety and longevity.

Tire failures cause over **11,000** tire related accidents every year, according to the National Highway Traffic NHTSA1 - and, hot summer roads and poor tire maintenance can make tires even more vulnerable. Even something as simple as keeping tires properly inflated can be a life-saver, so as summer driving season begins, and to help raise awareness of the importance of tire maintenance during National Tire Safety Month, the experts at AutoPartsWarehouse.com have put together an easy to accomplish tire check list.



# Consider this data from NHTSA

01

**2,969** billion miles

Drivers in the United States put more than **2,969 billion miles** on their tires annually

02

**11,000** tire-related

There are nearly **11,000 tire-related** crashes annually

03

**200** people

Almost **200 people** will die in those crashes.

04

**25% +**

Vehicles driving on tires under inflated by **more than 25 percent** are three times more likely to be involved in a crash related to tire problems than vehicles with proper inflation.

“There are few vehicle maintenance jobs that are easier than tire maintenance, but many of us forget how very important it is to our safety on the roads – the statistics from NHTSA are sobering and should serve as a reminder to all of us to take a few minutes to check our tread and our tire pressure,” said AutoPartsWarehouse.com CEO Shane Evangelist. “And while safety is the number one issue, good tire maintenance is also a dollar issue: with the average cost of new ranging between **\$50 - \$259 each**<sup>2</sup>, it is important to make sure they last their full life. ”

# AutoPartsWarehouse.com Tire Tip Check List

## 1. Inflation, Inflation, Inflation

There is probably no more important, nor easier, vehicle safety and maintenance tip than simply keeping your tires properly inflated. Underinflated tires are more likely to be involved in an accident and even slightly under inflated tires (up to 25%) can adversely affect vehicle handling and tread life.

### Step 1:

Know what your vehicle's recommended tire pressure in pounds-per-square-inch (PSI) should be. Correct tire pressure for your vehicle can be found on the sticker inside the car door and in the owner's manual.

### Step 2:

Buy a tire pressure gauge.

### Step 3:

Take five minutes once a month to check your tire pressure (including the spare) and if it is low, inflate to the proper PSI. On vehicles equipped with a Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), a warning light on the dashboard signals when a tire is low. And frequent visual inspections are a good habit to get into: look for bulging sidewalls, which could indicate low tire pressure.



## 2. Penny for Your Tires – Check Tread Frequently

Tire-related crashes, according to a NHTSA study<sup>4</sup>, are more likely as tire tread wears, with accident rates at 26 percent when tires are worn-out (0 - 2/32" depth). Visual indicators of tread wear include raised sections spaced throughout the bottom of tread grooves; but perhaps the best known test is to place a penny in the tire tread with Lincoln's head upside down and facing out. If the top of Lincoln's head is visible, the tire has less than 2/32 of an inch and must be replaced.



### 3. Align Your Priorities

If your wheels aren't aligned correctly you are accelerating uneven wear and could be adversely affecting vehicle handling. Wheel alignment can be checked by simply looking at the wear pattern on tires or by a trained technician with the use of an alignment rack.

Rotating and balancing tires every other oil change (7,000 - 10,000 miles) is another good tire habit. Rotating increases tire lifespan because the front tires wear faster than the rear, and keeping the tires balanced reduces vibration, extends the life of related suspension components, and improves the ride.



### 4. Replace Replace Replace

They are tires, not wine and if they are over six years-old, it is probably time to look for new shoes. And don't let the tread get to the point where it fails the penny test, replace a tire before it gets dangerous. Most manufacturers agree that regardless of mileage, quality tires have a shelf life. Check your vehicle owner's manual for specific recommendations for tire replacement for your vehicle. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend six years, some tire manufacturers recommend 10 years as the maximum service life for tires, including spares, but make sure you visually check tread frequently, as weather, poor maintenance, bad driving habits and other factors can shorten tire life.



## 5. Mellow Your Motoring

Driving habits have a significant impact on tire life – and, of course, safety. Take it easy on stoplight launches and canyon carving and watch your speed when driving on rough or damaged roads. Hitting a pothole at forty miles per hour can cause tire and wheel trauma, including sidewall damage, which is non-repairable.



## 6. Keep Them Clean

Use a tire protectant to prevent UV or ozone damage in the summer and harsh weather conditions in the winter. Be sure to clean tire sidewalls with Armor All® or a similar product. Whenever your vehicle is stored for long periods of time (i.e., a trailer or classic car), cover your tires and remove the vehicle's weight or load to help prevent sidewall cracks from forming.



## 7. Keep Calm and Pull Over

If you lose pressure or have a blow out when driving at speed, look ahead for a safe place to pull out of traffic, gently steer your vehicle there and avoid major corrections while you carefully slow down. If your car is on Run Flat Tires (look for RFT on the side wall) drive below 50 MPH to the nearest shop for repair and remember that most Run Flats have a range of around 100 miles or less when deflated.



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