

Doing your part

Good tire care...

helps the environment and saves you money

Proper tire care and good driving habits will extend the life of your tires by about one third — saving you money and protecting the environment as well.

More than 10 million tires are scrapped each year in Ontario. Of these more than 60 per cent are retreaded, reused or recycled.

Ontario's tire recyclers are continually finding new and innovative ways to make consumer products and industrial materials out of used tires. By turning scrap tires into a valuable resource, fewer tires are ending up in landfills.

Although we are making progress in removing scrap tires from the waste stream, more still needs to be done.

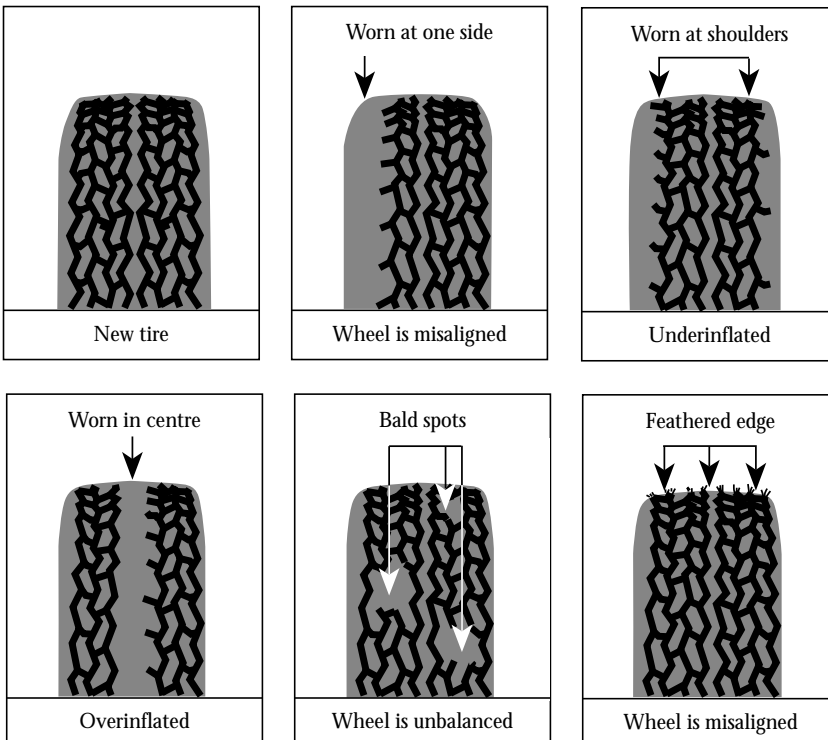
You too can do your part.

Check tires for proper inflation
You can save on fuel, help prevent accidents and ensure that your tires wear longer when your tires are properly inflated.

Under inflation reduces tread life, increases fuel consumption and can lead to sudden tire failure. A tire may be dangerously under inflated when it is as little as 28 kPa (four pounds per square inch) below the recommended pressure.

Over inflated tires are more likely to be cut or punctured by sudden impact.

- Check the manufacturer's sticker - usually located on the inside panel of the driver's door or in the glove compartment - for the right amount of pressure for your vehicle's tires. This information is also in your owner's manual.
- Check your tire pressure at least once a month using a good quality tire pressure gauge. Do this when the tires are cold, before driving your car. Don't forget to check the spare.
- A monthly tire inspection will help you spot signs of uneven wear caused by improper balance or poor suspension. Uneven wear can usually be corrected if caught in time.
- Rotate your tires at least every 10,000 km. Check your owner's manual to find out how tires should be rotated and how often.
- Keep a record of your tire maintenance.



Be a good driver

Good driving habits can increase your tire mileage too.

- Avoid fast starts, stops and turns; avoid potholes and objects on the road; don't run over curbs or scrape your tire against the curb when parking.
- Don't spin your tires. If you get stuck, rock the vehicle gently (alternately using forward and reverse gears) to avoid spinning the tires. A rapidly spinning tire can tear apart.

Repair punctured tires

- Take your punctured tire to a professional to see if it can be repaired. The tire should always be removed from the rim and inspected for internal damage.

Retread worn tires

Tire retreading has been practiced for decades, and can significantly extend the life of a tire. Retreading also conserves energy. A new tire requires two to three times more oil in the manufacturing process than a retread tire.

Retreaded tires can give the same mileage as comparable new tires, at a lower cost.

- If you drive a truck or off-road vehicle, you can have your worn tires retreaded and save yourself money.

Safely dispose of used tires

- Take your worn tires to a tire retail outlet or auto repair centre where they will safely dispose of the used tires for a small disposal fee. Find a reputable dealer that sends tires to a recycling company where they are turned into a useable product.

For more information on tire care please contact:

Ministry of the Environment

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