

How to Know when Car Tires Need Replacing

Ever wonder when to replace your worn car tires? The performance of your car tires is critical to the safety, performance and efficiency of your vehicle. Most tires are designed to provide similar performance throughout their lives. However, at some point they start to lose performance in terms of their traction and braking ability. Here are a few tips that should help you decide if it is time to start shopping for a new set of tires and avoid spending more than you need to.

Steps

Look at the tread pattern. **All tires have what are called "tread wear bars". These are small bridges that form between your treads. Look at the tread pattern and you will see the beginnings of these bars start to form between the treads, or running across the tires. As the tires wear, these bars will become flush with the tire's tread. At this point it is time to replace the tires.**



Check the tread by using the "penny test." **Take a penny, and place it upside down with Lincoln facing you in the center of the tread (at the thickest part of the tire).**

- If you can see the very top of Lincoln's head or the copper above it, replace the tires immediately.
- If Lincoln's hair on the top of his head is partially visible, it is time to go shopping for tires.
- If you cannot see the hair on the top of his head (if the coin is inserted enough that the tire tread is at least as deep as Lincoln's forehead), your tires do not need replacing yet.



Tips

- It is a good idea to rotate your tires from front to rear in pairs. Take both front tires and move them to the rear and vice versa.
- On 4-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive cars you should replace all four tires if it is recommended in your service manual. Differences in tire diameter can permanently damage differentials.
- If you see uneven wear on a front tire, chances are that the front end is out of alignment. You should have this checked and rotate the tires to the rear if possible (some vehicles have different sizes on front than the rear). The tires from the back should be fine and the uneven tires moved to the rear will start to correct themselves.
- Tires do not wear perfectly evenly, so be sure to insert the coin at several points from the outside to the inside of your tires. Tires generally wear more on the inside but over-inflated tires will wear more in the middle.
- Test all of your tires and if possible, replace them all at the same time. Mismatched tires will not provide the same safety, performance and efficiency as a matched pair will.
- Keep your tires properly inflated.

Warnings

- If uneven tire wear is extreme or if tires wear out much faster than expected, have a competent shop check your suspension and correct as necessary before replacing tires. Improper alignment or worn suspension parts can dramatically shorten a tire's life.
- Be careful to buy tires that are the right size and type for your vehicle and rims (wheels). Changing to low-profile tires may require you to buy larger rims so that the outer circumference of the tire remains unchanged. Incorrect tire size or mismatched tread can also cause a low tire pressure warning to come on if the vehicle is equipped with a Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS).
- Tires should never rub against your fenders or any other part of your car. If your new tires rub during turns or when going over bumps, they don't fit, no matter how cool they look. Fix this before you suffer a blowout and crash.
- Be careful when rotating tires, and especially when moving tires to different rims. Many modern tires have a specific rotational direction and corresponding rotation method. Refer to your tire manufacturer or dealer for details.
- If you happen to see wires on your tread or notice wear on the sidewalls of the tire, don't even bother with the penny and get the tire replaced. The wire thing is rare if Abe says the tread is still good, but it happens and it's better to replace the tire than get the blowout on the road.

Where to Buy

Please contact Klein Honda's Service Department to order your Genuine Honda Factory Tires. Special Pricing Available.

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