

SECTION 2

IDENTIFICATION AND SAFETY

Checking Tire Pressure

Because tires are designed to be used on more than one type of vehicle, tire manufacturers list the 'maximum permissible inflation pressure' on the sidewall. The number is the greatest amount of air pressure that should ever be put in the tire under normal driving conditions.

It is important to check your vehicle's tire pressure at least once a month for the following reasons:

- Most tires naturally lose air pressure over time.
- Tires can lose air suddenly if you drive over a pothole or strike the curb when parking.
- With radial tires it is usually not possible to determine under inflation by visual inspection.

For your convenience, purchase a tire pressure gauge to keep in your vehicle.

Tire Safety Tips

Preventing Tire Damage

- Slow down if you have to go over a pothole or other object in the road.
- Do not run over foreign objects in the roadway, and try not to strike the curb when parking.

Tire Safety Checklist

- Check tire pressure regularly (at least once a month), including the spare.
- Inspect tires for uneven wear patterns on the tread, cracks, foreign objects, or other signs of wear or trauma.
- Remove bits of glass and any other foreign objects wedged in the tread.
- Make sure your tire valves have valve caps.
- Check tire pressure before going on a long trip.
- Do not overload your vehicle. Check the tire information placard for the maximum recommended load for the vehicle.
- If you are towing a trailer, remember that some of the weight of the loaded trailer is transferred to the towing vehicle.

Tire Fundamentals

Federal law requires tire manufacturers to place standardized information on the sidewall of all tires. This information identifies and describes the fundamental characteristics of the tire and also provides a tire identification number for safety standard certification and in case of a recall.

MAINTENANCE TIP:

When a trailer is being stored for a prolonged period of time, follow the tips listed below to help prolong the life of your tires.



- Take the weight off the tires by putting the trailer on blocks.
- Reduce the air pressure in each tire.
- Protect your tires from the elements by keeping them covered.

When taking the trailer out of storage, inspect the tires thoroughly and be sure there are no cracks in the grooves and no wire showing. Cracks in the sidewall could indicate interior damage or separations in the tire.