

Keep Watch on Tires

Most Mileage Is Clocked In Summer

Late summer presents a special threat for drivers that can be more treacherous than ice.

After a dry spell, a light rain or drizzle creates a thin, greasy film on smooth road surfaces. It is slick, and it is dangerous, because drivers are not concerned about skidding at this time of the year.

Bald tires increase the danger. More miles are driven during the summer than at any other time of the year and without realizing it, tires may wear beyond the safe point. When there is less than 2/32" of tread remaining, according to tire experts, your tires are unsafe.

Under dangerous driving conditions, reduced speed and extra caution are obvious accident prevention measures. However, a double measure of safety is to keep your tires in good condition.

Rotate Your Tires

You can substantially increase tire life by having them rotated about twice a year. By putting tires in different positions on the car (left front to left rear, left rear to right front, and so on around the car — according to instructions for your make and model), your tires, including the spare, eventually will have taken their turns in all positions, thereby equalizing wear.

This semi-annual procedure also provides a good opportunity for your automotive serviceman to look for cuts, bruises or other damage.

Another part of semi-annual tire care should be a check of wheel balance and alignment. Both have a serious bearing on tire wear and will affect your car's handling ability and driving comfort.

Once a month, have the air in the tires checked. An underinflated tire will wear rapidly at the outer edges; overinflation causes wear at the center.

One final tire care fact especially important during the summer: excessive heat is a tire's worst enemy. It results from a flexing of the tire body. The faster you drive, and the more load you carry, the more your tires will flex.

Get Sizzling Hot

Tires can get sizzling hot at high speed on a summer day. When they hit 250 degrees (considered their critical temperature), wear is rapid and you may be in danger of complete tire failure.

Your tires are the only contact between you and the road. Should they fail, you are in danger. Also, they represent a substantial portion of the total value of your car. So, both in safety and in economy, proper tire care is like money in the bank.



Her trip may be shorter than she's planned from the look of her tires. Some tire damage is not as obvious as this, so it pays to have your favorite serviceman inspect for damage on your next visit.



A tire care kit that fits in a glove compartment is being made available by the Rubber Manufacturers Association. The kit contains an air pressure gauge, a tread depth gauge, a set of four tire valve caps and a 16-page guide on proper tire care. A three-dollar value, it is available for \$1.00 to readers of this section. To obtain one, send \$1.00 to Tire Safety, Department CC, Box 726, New York, N. Y., 10010. The kit is not available in Canada.

KEEP YOUR COOL

When your car loses its cool, you're heading for trouble — and it may be expensive. Avoid trouble by making sure your car's fanbelt, radiator and hoses are in good condition, and that coolant is always at the proper level.

Let the "other guy" know which way you plan to go, give him the signal.

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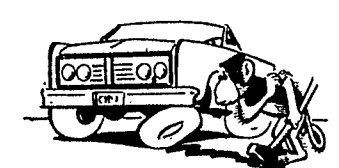
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