

NATIONAL BE TIRE SMART WEEK

PROPER TIRE INFLATION CONTRIBUTES TO CLEANER AIR, PROTECTS YOUR FAMILY AND SAVES YOU MONEY

Is proper tire inflation a smart move? You bet it is! Under-inflated tires not only threaten the safety of you and your family, they can cost you a bundle in unnecessary fuel bills and are a significant contributor to global warming.

So *Be Tire Smart* and measure your tire pressures monthly. Here's why and how:

Fast Facts

- Canadians can fight global warming simply by measuring their tire pressures each month. Under-inflated tires cause Canadians to waste an estimated 643 million litres of fuel each year, which results in the release of an additional one million tonnes of carbon dioxide – a harmful green house gas – into the atmosphere
- Under-inflation is the most common cause of tire failure and can lead to accidents caused by poor or delayed braking, steering and acceleration.
- Under-inflated tires increase rolling resistance, causing your vehicle to use more fuel. Each year, under-inflated tires will cost Canadian drivers an estimated \$772 million in extra fuel bills if fuel prices stay at current levels. That's enough squandered fuel to fill 257 Olympic-size swimming pools.
- Improper maintenance shortens tire life and forces drivers to replace their tires more often. This means more tires go to landfills or recycling, and more energy is then used to recycle them or to produce new tires.
- Proper tire maintenance is not only good for the environment, it's good for your pocketbook. Individual drivers who measure their tire pressures monthly and have their wheels aligned each year and rotated in accordance with the recommendation in the owner's manual can expect to save between \$850 and \$1,000 over their vehicle's typical seven-year life through fuel savings and longer tire life.

How to determine the correct tire pressure for your vehicle

- Always use the vehicle manufacturer's recommended tire pressure. The right tire pressure by wheel position for your vehicle is listed on the vehicle placard often located on the inside post of one of the doors, or inside the glove compartment, trunk or fuel door.

- Never use the tire pressure imprinted on the tire sidewall. That number refers to the maximum inflation pressure a tire can contain under maximum load.

When is the right time to check tire pressure?

- Always measure tire inflation pressure when the tires are “cold”. Tires are cold if they have not been driven for more than two kilometres or have been stationary for at least three hours.

How to know if your tires need inflating, or deflating?

- The only accurate way to know if your tires need to be inflated or deflated is by measuring their pressure with a reliable tire gauge. A common misconception is that visual check is sufficient to measure tire pressure. Tires could be significantly under or over-inflated by up to 20% and yet, you may not be able to tell just by looking at them.
- Over-inflation can lead to irregular wear and shortened tire life because over-inflated tires will ride on just the centre portion of the tread.

How to measure your tire pressure in just a few minutes

Step 1:

- Find the recommended inflation pressure for your tires on the vehicle placard. Check the owner’s manual for its exact location.

Step 2:

- Only measure pressure when the tires are cold.

Step 3

- Complete tire inflation pressure check using a tire gauge: Remove cap from valve of one tire, press tire gauge onto the valve and take pressure reading.

Step 4

- Add air until the recommended air pressure is achieved. If you overfill the tire, release air by pushing on the metal stem in the centre of the valve, then re-check the pressure.