

When Is It Time To Replace My Tires?

Handling and braking performance will deteriorate as the tread on your tires wear down. If you see any change in your vehicle's performance, Big O recommends that you have the tires checked by one of our tire professionals. However, there are industry guidelines that address this question. The Rubber Manufacturer's Association (RMA) as well as the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicate that tires with remaining tread of .3cm or less are unsafe and should be replaced. Built-in treadwear indicators, or "wear bars", which look like narrow strips of smooth rubber across the tread will appear on the tire when the tread is worn down to .2cm. When you see these "wear bars," the tire is worn out and should be replaced. You can also use the "Penny Test" to quickly check the tread depth. Place a penny into a tread groove with the Queen's head down and facing you. If you can see the tips of the crown, it's time for a new set of tires.