

TIRE SAFETY



be tire
smart

play
your

PART

P

PRESSURE

Under inflation is a tire's #1 Enemy.

It results in unnecessary tire stress, irregular wear, lost of control and accidents. A tire can lose up to half of its air pressure and not appear to be flat!

A

ALIGNMENT

Is your vehicle pulling to one side, or shaking?

A bad jolt from hitting a curb or pothole can throw your front end out of alignment and damage your tires. Have your alignment checked periodically to ensure that your car is properly aligned.

R

ROTATION

Promotes uniform tire wear.

Regularly rotating your vehicle's tires will help you achieve more Uniform wear. Unless your vehicle owner's manual has a specific Recommendation, the guideline for tire rotation is approx. every 5,000 miles.

T

TREAD

Measure it – and inspect it.

Advanced and unusual wear can reduce the ability of tread to grip the road in adverse conditions. Visually check your tires for uneven Wear, looking for high and low areas or unusually smooth areas. Also check for signs of damage.

Aged Tires: A Hidden Danger on the Road?



Contrary to popular belief, you can't judge a tire by its cover. Researchers and most experts agree that along with tread depth and proper tire maintenance, tire age is also crucial to your safety on the road.

This tire was bought as new -- it has never been on the road -- but was nearly 14 years old when purchased. Despite its deep treads, this tire's inside layers have been slowly decomposing and drying out, what experts say make it like "a ticking time bomb."

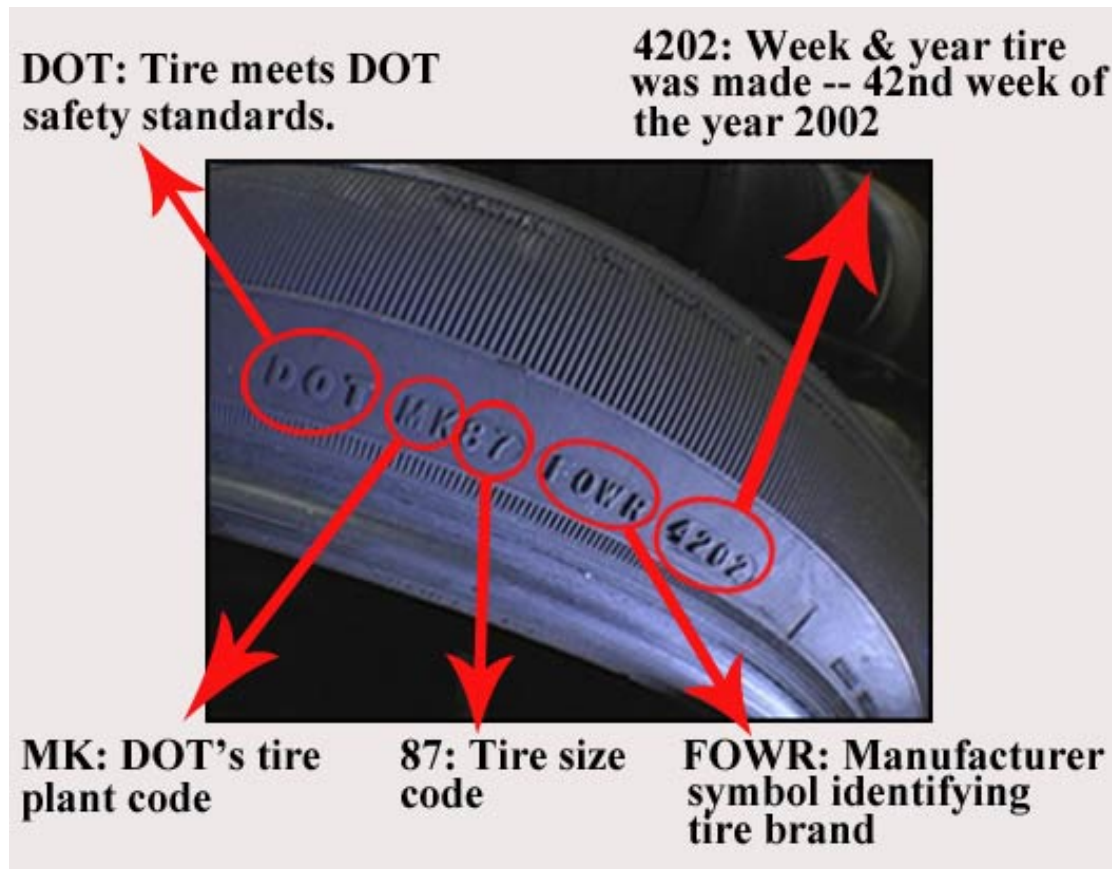
(ABC News, June 2008)

Aged Tires: A Hidden Danger on the Road?



Aged tires have a higher potential for dramatic tread separation, which in many cases has led to tragic endings for unsuspecting motorists.

Aged Tires: A Hidden Danger on the Road?



This graphic breaks down the various codes in the Department of Transportation's serial number for tires. A cryptic code of four numbers at the end of the 12-digit DOT serial number can tell the consumer which week and year a tire was manufactured. Can you tell when your tires were made?

(ABC News)

Aged Tires: A Hidden Danger on the Road?



This tire's DOT code indicates that it was made in the 41st week of 1994. Tires made in the 1990s have three numbers at the end of the DOT code, while tires made after 2000 have four numbers.

(ABC News)

Aged Tires: A Hidden Danger on the Road?



This tire is more than seven years old. It was made in the 13th week of 2001. According to experts like Sean Kane, who runs a private auto safety research firm, tires older than six years get increasingly more dangerous regardless of how long they've actually been on the road.

(ABC News)

When does NHTSA recommend that tires should be replaced?

- While tire life will ultimately depend on the tires' service conditions and the environment in which they operate, there are some general guidelines. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend that tires be replaced every six years regardless of use. In addition, a number of tire manufacturers cite 10 years as the maximum service life for tires. Check the owner's manual for specific recommendations for your vehicle. Remember, it is always wise to err on the side of caution if you suspect your vehicle has tires that are **over six years of age.**
- What does this mean to you? Take YOUR safety into your own hands.
- Many sources recommend that you should replace your tires every 6 YEARS regardless of use.
- Spare Tires – when is the last time you used it or inspected it?