

## **WHEN DO YOU NEED TO REPLACE TYRES?**

Tyre professionals are constantly asked, "When should I replace my tyres?" Tyres are typically replaced when their natural lifespan has come to an end, as the tyre tread wears down over time from use. There are a number of other factors that can affect the lifespan of your tyres including storage, temperature, surfaces they are driven on, how aggressive of a driver you are, punctures, etc.

The usual recommendation for replacing tyres is when they no longer feel safe to the driver. Whether or not tyres feel "safe" is subjective, and more experienced drivers may be more in tune with their tyres' handling and notice problems sooner. If you find that your tyres are not providing a level of traction that makes you feel safe, for example if you find that they are spinning or slipping, you should replace them.

## **REASONS TO REPLACE TYRES:**

### ***IRREGULAR TREAD WEAR***

If one tyre appears to be wearing down faster than others, a few things could be causing it. The most likely culprit is that your vehicle is out of alignment, but a worn shock or strut or a damaged piece of your vehicle's exterior rubbing on a tyre as you drive could also cause one tyre to wear down quicker than the others.

Short of having the issue taken care of at an auto repair shop that offers alignment and suspension services, this is also a problem that can be mitigated with regular tyre rotations.

Ignoring uneven tyre wear for too long can increase the chance of degraded performance and ride comfort, hydroplaning, and risk of accident along with the possibility of having a blowout at highway speeds.

### ***BULGING AND BUBBLING TYRES***

Tyres that bubble and bulge, (generally around the sidewall) are indicative of several possibilities. A defect from the factory it was manufactured at to it being damaged between when it was shipped and installed are all things we watch out for before installing any tyre, but even the more incidental things such as hitting an object in the middle of the road or driving over a curb or pothole can all cause this kind of damage to your tyres.

If there's a positive in this situation, it's that you'll likely notice fairly immediately once the deformity develops. As a bulge in a tyre grows, it will have a detrimental effect on your ride comfort overall. Over time your vehicle will develop a rattling and shaking ride that is going to be pretty difficult to ignore.

### ***TYRE AGE***

Just because you don't drive much doesn't mean you're not going to eventually need new tyres. While most manufacturers offer warranties based on the type of tyre that generally cover certain mileage targets, (such as 40,000 or 60,000 miles) the tyres on your garaged classic will still need to be changed at some point.

How often? We suggest at least every 6 years, even under the most minimal use. This ensures your tyres haven't degraded without your knowledge, especially if you're out on a Saturday cruise or on the way to a show.

And if you're splitting your time between summer and winter tyres as the seasons change you'll still want to stick to this, even if you're storing your tyres correctly.

### ***TYRE MILEAGE***

It almost goes without saying, but if you put a lot of miles on your tyres they're going to need to be replaced at a faster rate than normal. Whether they're all-season or all-terrain, ultra-high performance summer tyres or severe-duty winter/snow tyres, there's always going to be a time when a set of tyres simply shouldn't be driven on.

A couple things worth bearing in mind when you're looking at new tyres based on the mileage of your current tyres are:

- Any mileage-based warranties
- Consumer reviews
- Your driving style
- The road and weather conditions on your commute

While a good warranty and positive consumer feedback can help back up your decision, it's well worth noting that certain types of tyres can wear down far quicker than others. Generally, sportier tyres with soft compounds that grip better will wear faster than regular passenger tyres, especially over rough roadway.

### ***TYRES EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS***

Similar to how prolonged exposure to the sun can dry out and damage your skin, if a vehicle is stored outside and rarely driven, its tyres can begin to crack or experience dry rot. Generally caused by prolonged exposure to UV rays, extremely high and low temperatures combined with long time periods without use can all contribute to tyre dry rot.

While the bad news is that dry rot in tyres isn't something that can be repaired, opting for higher-quality tyres when you replace the old ones generally will make them more resistant to rotting out in the future.

### *DRIVING STYLES*

This one might be even more of a no-brainer, but doing burnouts, trying to drift and generally driving aggressively both on and off-road are all going to take a toll on your tyres. If you recognize that this is the way you drive, it shouldn't be any kind of huge shock that you'll need new rubber faster than you might normally – but keeping a constant eye on your air pressure and tyre rotation intervals can mitigate the need for new tyres as much as possible.

Regardless, because of the softer rubber compounds found in competition, performance, and summer tyres, even fairly normal driving will still wear these kind of tyres down faster than your average passenger tyre.

No matter the circumstance, replacing your tyres before they get to any of the above points is a great way to save yourself from expensive repair costs and overall inconvenience if you have a flat, blowout, or even from getting in an accident because you weren't able to stop quickly enough on old tyres.

And if you ever have questions about when to replace your tyres or their current condition, feel free to give us a call on [08 8371 5711](tel:0883715711) or email us at [sales@wheelworx.com.au](mailto:sales@wheelworx.com.au)