

TYRE TREAD DEPTH

Having good tyre tread is an important factor in vehicle safety and performance: it helps drivers stop quickly, prevents hydroplaning and improves handling. As your tyre's tread (the part of the tyre that comes into contact with the road) wears down, their ability to grip the road decreases.

Tread patterns (the grooves in the rubber of the tyre tread) have been carefully designed and engineered by tyre manufacturers to maximize safety and performance for different driving conditions. Grooves in the tread pattern can allow for water to be expelled from beneath the tyre - thereby preventing hydroplaning - or to compact the snow and release it as the tyre rolls - increasing traction in even harsh winter conditions. Summer tyres, which are intended for use in dry weather, have minimal tread pattern.

Each tyre has what are known as wear bars, which indicate the wear limits on the tyre. These wear indicators appear at various points around the tyre, as bars running through the tread design from one side of the tyre to the other. When the tyres reach the point where they are legally worn out with a tread depth of 2/32", the tread will be at the same level as the tread wear indicators and they will be easily visible.

Tyres will usually begin to feel unsafe before they become legally worn out, and drivers may experience spinning or slipping as they drive. If that is the case, do not wait for your tyres to get to the wear bars. Just because the tread depth is not as low as the tread wear bar, does not mean it is safe, particularly if you find yourself driving in adverse road conditions like rain or snow.