

Tire Inspection

1. Use a gauge to check the air pressure in each tire. Add air or deflate as needed to match the manufacturer's recommendation.
2. Look in the grooves between tire tread for raised patches of rubber, called wear bars. These 2/32-inch tall patches will help you identify a worn out tire. (In most states 3/32-inch is the minimum legal tread depth.)
3. If tread is worn to a level where wear bars are flush with the tread it indicates that tread depth is 2/32-inch or less. Replace worn tires.
4. If your tires do not have wear bars, place a US penny into a groove between treads, with Lincoln's head down. If the tread is at or beyond the top of Lincoln's head you have at least 3/32-inch of tread left, a satisfactory level.
Tread should wear evenly. Inspect each tire for unusual tread wear.
5. A rounded edge on the inside and outside edges of tread could indicate under-inflation.
6. The same wear pattern on front tires of front-wheel drive vehicles could indicate a need for more frequent tire rotation.
7. Excessive wear on the center of a tire's tread could indicate over-inflation.
8. Unusual wear that resembles a chop or stair-step pattern could indicate worn shocks.
9. Stair-step wear on the inside and outside tread of front tires on 4x4 vehicles may be normal.
10. Excessive wear on the inside or the outside of the tread could indicate the need for alignment.
11. Carefully check each tire for punctures, nails, damage, scuffs, and weather cracking. Repair or replace as necessary.
12. Pressure stats printed on sidewalls indicate the maximum amount of air pressure tires should be inflated with -- not recommended pressures