

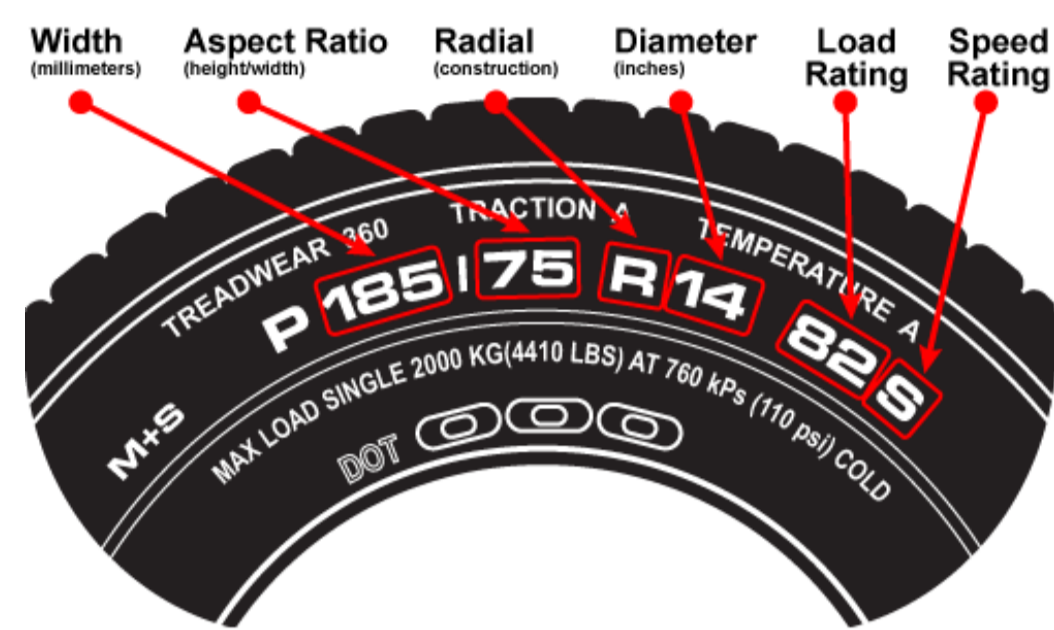
Tire Buying Guide

Buying the right tires for your vehicle is an important decision and one that will have a major impact on your safety and driving enjoyment for thousands of miles ahead. Before you replace your tires, consult your vehicle's owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for tire replacement.

All four tires should be as similar as possible since a change in tire size or type can affect the handling and performance of your vehicle. If one of your tires doesn't match the others, it is possible for you to lose control of your vehicle since one end of your vehicle won't respond as quickly as the other.

If you are purchasing tires that are different from the original tire sizes, seek the assistance of a professional installer who will ensure that the proper clearance, load carrying capacity and inflation pressure standards are met. The maximum load capacity and inflation pressure is listed on the sidewall of your tire (see diagram below) and you should never exceed the maximum requirements for your tires.

How to Read the Sidewall of a Tire



"P" indicates passenger or performance tires.

"LT" would indicate light truck tires.

Aspect Ratio: is the height of the tire. Typically, a higher number means a taller tire. If a tire has a lower aspect ratio, it is a higher performing tire. All-season performance tires usually have an aspect ratio between 65 and 80.

Load Index: is the weight a tire can carry. Refer to the chart below to determine how much load (lbs) a tire can support at maximum air pressure and then multiply that number by four to determine the maximum load carrying capacity.

Load Index	Load (lbs.)	Load Index	Load (lbs.)	Load Index	Load (lbs.)	Load Index	Load (lbs.)	Load Index	Load (lbs.)
1	99	31	240	61	567	91	1356	121	3297
2	102	32	247	62	584	92	1389	122	3307
3	105	33	254	63	600	93	1433	123	3417
4	107	34	260	64	617	94	1477	124	3527
5	110	35	267	65	639	95	1521	125	3638
6	114	36	276	66	639	96	1565	126	3748
7	117	37	282	67	667	97	1609	127	3858
8	120	38	291	68	694	98	1653	128	3968
9	123	39	300	69	719	99	1709	129	4079
10	128	40	309	70	739	100	1764	130	4188
11	132	41	320	71	761	101	1819	131	4299
12	136	42	331	72	783	102	1874	132	4409
13	139	43	342	73	805	103	1929	133	4541
14	143	44	353	74	827	104	1984	134	4674
15	148	45	364	75	852	105	2039	135	4806
16	152	46	375	76	882	106	2094	136	4938
17	157	47	386	77	908	107	2149	137	5071
18	161	48	397	78	937	108	2205	138	5201
19	165	49	408	79	963	109	2271	139	5357
20	171	50	419	80	992	110	2337	140	5512
21	176	51	430	81	1019	111	2403	141	5677
22	182	52	441	82	1047	112	2469	142	5842
23	187	53	454	83	1074	113	2535	143	6008
24	193	54	467	84	1102	114	2601	144	6173
25	204	55	481	85	1135	115	2649	145	6393
26	209	56	494	86	1168	116	2756	146	6614
27	215	57	507	87	1201	117	2833	147	6779
28	220	58	520	88	1235	118	2910	148	6844
29	227	59	536	89	1279	119	2998	149	7165
30	234	60	551	90	1323	120	3086	150	7385

Speed Rating: is a speed rating issued to a tire according to federal safety standards. A high speed rating usually indicates that the tire offers better handling. Downgrading the speed rating of your vehicle's tires or mixing different speed ratings of tires may result in steering problems and overall serious handling setbacks.

SPEED RATING LETTER DESIGNATIONS (Test Speed)

Q	Up to 100 MPH
S	Up to 112 MPH
T	Up to 118 MPH
U	Up to 124 MPH
H	Up to 130 MPH
V	Up to 149 MPH
W	Up to 168 MPH
Y	Up to 186 MPH
Z	149 MPH and higher

Temperature Grade: is a tire's resistance to heat under controlled testing conditions. From highest to lowest, the grades are:

A	Coolest running tire
B	Warmer running tire
C	Meets minimum requirements for performance

Treadwear Grade: is a comparative rating based on the wear of a tire when tested under controlled conditions. The tread of a tire graded 300 should typically last twice as long a tire graded 150.

The treadwear grade is relevant only when comparing tires made by the same manufacturer. Other manufacturers may have different grading systems.

Questions to Ask When Searching for the Right Tires

What are the right size tires for my vehicle?

A tire must be able to carry the weight of your vehicle. You can upgrade from your vehicle's original tires, but you should never undersize as this will overwork the tire and compromise your vehicle's ability to respond to emergency situations.

You should also consider the overall tire diameter. For cars and vans, a 3% diameter change is acceptable. SUVs and pick-up trucks can usually handle a 15% oversize tire.

What do you use your vehicle for?

If you drive your vehicle occasionally, in and around your neighbourhood, you can select almost any type of tire. If you rely on your vehicle to go to work via busy city streets or by highways, a more responsive tire will serve your driving purposes. If you enjoy taking the occasional road trip through mountains or along winding country roads, select good handling tires. If you use your vehicle for racing, only the best competitive tires will do.

Should I buy winter tires, summer tires or all-season tires?

The performance category of your tires depends on the driving conditions you will encounter.

If you use all-season tires, you may experience good performance under many driving conditions, but there is a risk that your vehicle will not perform at its best when driving conditions are at their worst. Select tires based on the worst driving conditions you expect to encounter, otherwise, when you're stuck in mud or snow, there's not much more you can expect from your limited performance tires.

If you use your vehicle to drive to work everyday and your worst driving condition is piling through snow all winter long, you may want to consider purchasing two sets of tires. While purchasing two sets of tires may seem like an expensive route to take, in the long run, you get more out of both sets of tires and end up saving on longer total wear.

Does price guarantee value?

Ask yourself how much each tire will cost per mile. If you find the perfect tire and it costs only a few cents more per mile, does saving money today really matter when it comes to selecting the perfect tire you will be relying on for the next two to three years?