

TYRE TORQUE

Presented by



If you never give your tyres a second thought you are just like the majority of motorists. It's only when you stop to think of just how much each tyre contributes to your safety that perception changes from thinking of tyres as a grudge purchase to considering them as your lifeline to safety.

If that sounds a bit on the dramatic side then pause for a moment and think of all the things a tyre has to do well. Braking, acceleration, cornering and steering come top of the list and then you can add performance in the wet or on poor road surfaces, whether they stay inflated to the right pressure, how positive they feel on cornering and how much noise they make on a typical road surface.

And there's more. How long do they last, do they wear evenly, how much do they cost and above all, will they keep you and your family safe in all conditions?

Hopefully, the round and black thing that holds up each corner is taking on a life and personality of its own.

Step one is to buy a tyre pressure gauge and to keep your tyre pressures at recommended inflation pressures. You'll find the correct pressure range printed on a tyre placard displayed somewhere on the vehicle, usually in the door pillar or on the edge of the door itself. In some cases, especially with commercial vehicles, you'll find more than one set of suggested pressures, usually differentiating between unladen and fully laden. You may also find more than one tyre size listed as the vehicle could have several tyre size options available. You'll need to read the tyre size off the sidewall and compare it to the tyre placard to make sure you are looking at the right tyre size and the right suggested pressure for your vehicle and its application.

Maintaining the correct pressure is the most important aspect of tyre care. And once you get used to checking pressures regularly and adjusting them when required you'll find your tyres last longer and your roadholding and safety stays at the optimum level. Remember though that if you have to keep inflating a specific tyre then it has to be checked by a specialist tyre dealer for a possible puncture or leak. Just re-inflating it will not make the leak go away and the tyre may just let you down when you need it most, usually on a dark rainy night when you are far from home.

