



5-2 Safety Short

6 July 2007

Tire Tread Depth

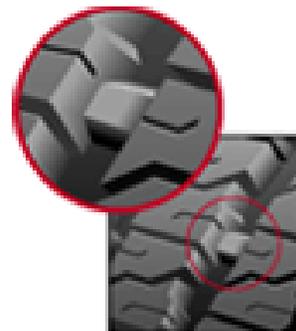
Regular tread depth checks are important to ensure that your car's tires are safe. Excessive wear can result in a loss of traction, especially on wet and slippery roads. Tires are regular wear items and staying on top of their condition not only ensures your safety, but also gives you the opportunity to plan ahead and budget for inevitable tire replacement.

Current tread depth legislation requires that car tires must have a minimum of **1.6mm** of tread in a continuous band throughout the central. Generally, it's best to replace tires in sets of four. If your car's tires show signs of abnormal or unequal wear, have this looked into by a professional technician. Excessive wear on both outer edges generally indicates under-inflation. Excessive wear in the center of the tread generally indicates over-inflation. Cupping or dipping of certain tread sections may indicate worn suspension parts or a wheel balance problem. Saw-toothed or feathered tread edges may indicate wheel misalignment. If your car needs alignment or suspension work, have it done before you drive off with a new set of tires. Taking a "big picture" approach to protecting your tire investment will reap many rewards for miles to come.

To help drivers recognize when their tires are nearing the legal limit tires are manufactured with tread wear indicators in the grooves (pictured right).

However, despite the law, it is universally recognized in the tire industry that the legal limit is wholly insufficient to protect drivers in adverse driving conditions.

Drivers are therefore recommended to consider replacing their tires when the tread depth reaches 3mm.



Switzerland and Austria require a minimum of 4mm of tread depth