

**HOW TO MAKE
YOUR TIRES LAST
LONGER ON POT
HOLE FILLED
NIGERIAN
ROADS.**

Tyres are built to last for a couple of years like 4 to 6 years sometimes 9 years. There is no recommended lifespan only safe use period. In hot climates like Nigeria tyres will remain in good condition for about 4 years or more if used properly. With poor maintenance a car tyre can go bad in less than a year. When tyres go bad they cause serious danger to the lives of the driver and other road users.

WHY TYRE MAINTENANCE IS IMPORTANT

1. Lesser fuel consumption
2. Prolongs tyre life span
3. Safety is maximized

5 TYRE MAINTENANCE TIPS TO PROLONG THE LIFE SPAN OF THE TYRE

1. TYRE ROTATION

Tires are often moved from one position on the car to another to ensure even wear and tear. Front tires carry more of the car's weight and tend to wear out at about twice the rate of back tires so rotating the tires can extend their life. Car manufacturers differ in their recommendations, but most manufacturers advice tires should be rotated every 8,000 to 10,000 km.

Ensuring your tires are rotated regularly (usually at each service but can be more frequently) will allow them to wear evenly and maintain good tread. A front wheel drive vehicle will wear its front tires more quickly, and a rear wheel drive vehicle will wear its rear tires more quickly. Therefore, regular rotation can help prolong the life and

condition of your tires, resulting in greater safety on the road. You wouldn't want to let the tires that drive power to be bald, as this can cause loss of control.

2. VISUAL INSPECTION

Do visual inspections on regular basis, the tires may pick a nail, have a cut or uneven wear. Visual inspection will enable you to be proactive and not wait till the tires are badly damaged before you act.

3. WHEEL BALANCING AND ALIGNMENT

Wheel alignment is the process of properly aligning the wheels and axles. It ensures that your car handles are at its optimum level, increasing safety as well as protecting tires against premature wear and saving fuel. Wheel balancing protects the bearings and suspension, prevents premature tire wear and stops vibration. Bad wheel alignment will result in uncomfortable driving experience as well as quick tire wear. The wheel balancing and alignment should not cost you above N6,000 to do but you could end up having to buy a N60,000 tyre after the damage has been done.

4. AVOID POTHOLE

Although, this is difficult to achieve with the bad state of our

roads... but you just have to avoid those potholes. They can deform your car tires, damage the alignment and even cause a tire burst.

5. TYRE PRESSURE

Tyre pressure is of critical importance for two basic reasons. Having properly inflated tyres protects against tyre damage and reduces the possibility that the car will spin out of control. Driving with low pressure tyres also increases fuel consumption. You should check your tyre pressure at least every month, more often if you drive many kilometres and always before setting out on any long journey. Tyres should not be hot when checked, otherwise add 4 to 5 PSI to the recommended pressure. To find the correct tyre pressure for your car, check the user manual, the label on the door or inside the fuel flap. The recommended pressure is not written on the tyre itself.

HOW DOES INFLATION PRESSURE AFFECT YOUR SAFETY AND THE LIFESPAN OF YOUR TIRES?

There are 3 types of conditions that will affect your driving performance, tire life span and your safety. The elaborations are stated below:

1) Under-inflated tires will reduce your control over the vehicle, increase time and distance it takes for your car stop after applying

brakes and tires will wear rapidly.

2) Over-inflated tires will reduce grip, stability in braking which may lead to poorer handling.

3) Correctly-inflated tires will maximize safety, stability and improve vehicle handling.

Driving your car with under inflated tires will do the following-

1) The life of the tire will be shortened. If there are any complaints about short life of tires, the pressure should be checked first.

2) Abrasion will appear at the shoulders.

3) Fuel consumption will increase.