



A GUIDE TO TYRE SAFETY

Tyre safety is an important part of car maintenance and one that's often overlooked by fleet drivers and organisations. Basic checks can make a crucial difference in how a car performs and as well as making the car safer, properly maintained tyres will have a much longer lifespan.

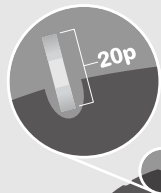
For a comprehensive guide to checking your tyres, read on...

Step 1. Understand the varying tyre types



In the UK, changeable weather and fluctuating temperatures mean regular checks are essential to keep on top of tyre safety. Summer tyres are designed for the road conditions typically experienced in the UK and are most commonly fitted in this country. **Pure winter tyres are designed to perform when temperatures drop to 7°C and below and have higher levels of grip.** A new type of tyre gaining popularity is known as the all-season tyre. These combine the benefits of summer and winter tyres and provide an all-year alternative for climates with milder winters.

Although there are various types of tyres available, they all need to be in good condition and at the right pressure to perform at their best throughout the year.



Step 2. Check tyre tread depth



The legal minimum tread depth for cars in the UK is 1.6mm throughout a continuous band, comprising the central three-quarters of breadth of the tread, and around its entire outer circumference. Tyre treads are designed to give good grip on all types of road, but the grip decreases as a tyre's tread pattern wears down. Drivers who fail to comply with the minimum tread depth requirements risk a fine of up to £2,500 and three penalty points for each illegal tyre, so replace tyres before they reach the legal minimum.

A quick and easy way to see if your tyre tread exceeds the minimum legal tread depth is to place a 20p coin into the main tread grooves of the tyre. **If the outer band of the 20p coin is obscured, the tread is above the legal limit. If the outer band of the coin is visible, the tyres should be checked immediately.**



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Step 3. Check tyre pressure

Check the pressure and condition of your tyres at least once a month, and always before undertaking any long journeys. **Any sign of bulges, cuts, nails or cracking need to be examined by a tyre professional.**

