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# DUNLOP TIRE TIPS

The sport of motorcycling opens a door to some of the most fantastic adventures around. All of us at Dunlop wish you well in your travels and we'd also like to help keep you safe in your riding endeavors. So here are a few reminders about checking tires—one of the most vital bits of maintenance you can perform.

- **Checking tire pressure** is the most important tire maintenance function. Maintaining correct air pressure is crucial to the tires' rolling efficiency, steering, grip, wear and load-carrying capabilities.
- **For every 4 psi** a tire is underinflated, you could lose up to 80 pounds of load-carrying capacity.
- **You're not only riding on your tires**, you're also riding on the air within them, so check cold air pressure as often as possible with a high-quality air-pressure gauge, and have it calibrated at least once a year.
- **Before riding**, the motorcyclist must determine the total weight of luggage, equipment and rider(s) to be added to the motorcycle. The total weight of luggage, equipment and rider(s) must never exceed the vehicle load capacity found in the motorcycle owner's manual, or the maximum load molded on the tire sidewall.
- **On a regular basis, check your tires** all the way around. Rotate both tires completely and make sure there are no nails, or other objects penetrating the tire. If you find anything, do not ride until you have your motorcycle dealer inspect the tire and replace it if necessary.
- **Check the tire sidewalls** for signs of cracking and never use sidewall treatments or dressings, which can actually accelerate tire cracking.
- **For wet-weather riding** it's especially important to be aware that worn tires decrease the ability to dissipate water. Worn tires also decrease handling and become more susceptible to punctures, so always replace tires before they reach the tread-depth indicators inside the tread grooves. On the sidewall of the tire, there are little triangles spaced around the tire. If you look in a tread groove at a point indicated by the triangle, you can see a raised-up bar. The surface of your tread must be higher than those bars.
- **If you're storing your motorcycle** and/or if you're storing spare tires, avoid frequent and varied extremes of temperature during storage. Do not keep tires next to radiators or sources of heat. Tires subjected to these conditions will age more quickly than those stored in a cool, constant environment.
- **Do not store tires** where electric motors are present; the high concentration of ozone will accelerate tire cracking.
- **When buying new tires** be sure to select tires that meet the requirements of your motorcycle and its expected usage, and match front and rear tires.
- **After installation of new tires**, check to make sure the arrows on the sidewall are pointing in the correct direction of rotation, and that the balance dot on the tire is lined up with the valve stem.

**Complete tire selection, safety, care and maintenance information**

is available in Dunlop's motorcycle tire brochure and on the web at [www.dunlopmotorcycle.com](http://www.dunlopmotorcycle.com)—or call Dunlop at 800-845-8378

