

NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUTUMN IS NO TIME TO NEGLECT YOUR TIRES, SAYS TIRE SAFETY GROUP

Washington, D.C.-- Falling leaves may mean the end of summer, but a change of season doesn't mean you should change good habits when it comes to taking proper care of your tires, says the Tire Industry Safety Council.

"When outside temperatures begin to drop, tires should be checked at least once a month because cold weather reduces your tire's inflation pressure," says Council Chairman Donald B. Shea. "Driving on underinflated tires causes tire tread to wear faster and unevenly."

"Underinflated tires also reduce ride performance, affect vehicle handling, and decrease your vehicle's fuel efficiency," Shea adds. A tire is considered significantly underinflated when it is four or more pounds below the recommended air pressure.

Another good habit to continue in the fall, according to Shea, is to check your tires for uneven wear patterns. "Uneven wear may signal improper inflation pressures, misalignment, tire and wheel imbalance or suspension problems," Shea explains.

Misalignment in the front or rear end of your car, and mechanical problems such as improperly operating brakes or shock absorbers, bent wheels or sprung axle housings, can all cause uneven treadwear. "All these systems should be checked periodically by a qualified mechanic as specified by the vehicle owner's manual or whenever you have any indication of trouble," Shea says.

Irregular tire wear can often be corrected by rotating your tires. Check your car owner's manual or consult the tire manufacturer for the appropriate rotation pattern for your vehicle. After rotation, adjust each tire's air pressure to the appropriate level for its new location, as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

“Your tires were designed to give you many thousands of miles of excellent service. But you must take good care of them in order to get optimum mileage,” Shea says.

The Council is stressing the benefits of regular tire inspection as part of its observance of National Car Care Month.” Sponsored by the Car Care Council, a coalition of public and private sector interests, The national Car Care Month campaign is aimed at encouraging vehicle owners to have their vehicles periodically inspected and properly maintained. The Council offers these Fall-driving tips:

- **Take it easy on wet roads.** Stopping on a wet road can take up to four times the normal distance on a dry road. As water accumulates on the road, tires with shallow tread tend to hydroplane as speed increases, particularly over 40 mph.
- **Watch for autumn leaves.** Even when it’s not raining, leaves have a tendency to retain moisture and create a slippery surface for tires.
- **Look for built-in treadwear indicators called “wear bars,”** (narrow strips of smooth rubber across the tread). When these appear, its time to replace your tires.

The Council offers a free brochure on tire care for cars and light trucks. To order the guide, send a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to: Tire Industry Safety Council, P.O. Box 3147, Medina, OH 44258. The Council also offers a tire care kit which includes an air pressure gauge, a tread depth gauge, four valve caps and a tire care brochure. To order a kit, send a check or money order for \$4.00 to the above address.

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