

# Tyre Friendly DRIVING

You may not realise it, but the way you drive can impact how long your tyres will last and how well they perform. As you head down the road, there are a number of things to keep in mind:

## Safe driving

**Take it easy.** Avoid hard cornering, rapid accelerations and abrupt braking and stopping. These behaviours put a lot of stress on tyres. Smooth, safe driving is better for your tyres - and for you!

## Road hazards

**Avoid potholes and other hazards.** Obviously, it's best not to hit potholes or objects in the road. But if you can't avoid them, remember that the faster you are going when you hit something, the greater the impact on your tyres - so slow down as much as you can without endangering yourself or others.

**If you can't avoid a pothole,** don't apply the brakes when you hit it. Instead, apply them as you approach the hole, and release them just before striking it. This slows you down, but allows the tyre to roll as it hits, softening the impact.

If you hit an extremely large object or hole, have your tyres checked by an Authorised Cooper Tires Retailer, such collisions can cause internal tyre damage that you can't see - but which can cause problems later on. Sometimes, a tyre can be severely damaged and travel hundreds or even thousands of kilometres before failing. **A vibration or rough ride** may be a sign of such damage - suggesting it's time for a replacement.

## Getting stuck - and unstuck

**Avoid spinning your tyres.** If you find yourself stuck in snow, ice, mud or wet grass, don't spin your tyres rapidly, and never spin them if a drive wheel is off the ground. Doing so can actually cause damage to a tyre because if one drive wheel is stuck, and the other is free to spin, all the engine's power goes to the free wheel. If you get stuck in snow, turn off the vehicle, apply the brakes and shovel snow away from the tyres and vehicle. Try shovelling in sand and gravel to get more traction. If that doesn't work, gently rock the vehicle back and forth using forward and reverse gears. Keep people away from your tyres and the vehicle as you rock.

## Overloading

**Watch out for overloading.** Driving on an overloaded tyre is hazardous. When your car is carrying too much load, the weight can create excessive heat inside your tyres - with the potential to cause sudden tyre failure. Never exceed the maximum load rating of your tyres, which you can find on the sidewall of the tyre. When you replace a tyre, make sure the new one has a load-carrying capacity equal to or greater than what is specified on your vehicle's placard.

## Storing tyres

**It's important to treat your tyres right when you're not using them.** If you store your tyres between use, keep them in a cool, dry place, away from sunlight, heat and ozone. Allow air to circulate around all sides to avoid moisture damage. Keep tyres away from grease, fuel and other substances that can deteriorate the rubber. Do not store tyres within 5 metres of an electric motor, e.g. compressor, to avoid ozone exposure.

## Preventing tyre trouble

**Regular inspections** can help you prevent tyre trouble and keep you rolling safely down the road. If you detect any damage, get it checked out at your local Authorised Cooper Tires Retailer as soon as practical.

**SAFETY NOTICE:** If you ever need to repair a puncture with a string plug make sure you have the tyre professionally repaired as soon as possible, as the tyre industry doesn't recognise string plugs as a permanent repair method.

## New tyres for outback trips

**For trips through the outback, it's recommended to have new,** or nearly new, tyres on your vehicle. The deeper treads of new tyres will give you much better grip and more protection from damage than tyres that are partly worn.

