



# be tire smart play your **PART**

PRESSURE • ALIGNMENT • ROTATION • TREAD

A consumer education program of the Rubber Manufacturers Association

## 2009 Motorist Tire Care Awareness Fact Sheet

- ✓ Only 18 percent of drivers properly check their tire inflation pressure.  
To properly check tire inflation pressure:
  - Check tire inflation pressure at least once a month
  - Use the correct inflation pressure recommended by the vehicle manufacturer, not the pressure listed on the tire sidewall
  - Check tires when they are cold or haven't been driven for at least three hours
- ✓ 44 percent of drivers *wrongly* believe that the correct inflation pressure is printed on the tire sidewall. Another 14 percent do not know where to find the correct pressure.
- ✓ 20 percent of drivers *wrongly* believe that the best time to check their tires is when they are warm after being driven for at least a few miles.
- ✓ Nearly 2 out of 3 drivers do not know how to tell if their tires are bald.
- ✓ 70 percent of drivers do not check the tire pressure in their spare tire.
- ✓ 74 percent of motorists cite checking tire pressure as a top fuel saving tip.

*The RMA sponsored survey was conducted by FrederickPolls to 1,000 drivers nationwide from May 2009 and has a margin of error of 3 percent.*

### Additional Tire Pressure Facts

- ✓ NHTSA estimates more than 23,000 tow away crashes were due to blow outs or flat tires. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, August 2001)
- ✓ Under inflated tires are attributed to crashes that result in 660 fatalities and 33,000 injuries each year. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, September 2004)
- ✓ Properly inflated tires can improve vehicle fuel efficiency by 3.3% and save motorists about 6 cents per gallon. ([www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov))
- ✓ 19 percent of passenger vehicles have at least one tire under inflated tire by 8 PSI or more. (Rubber Manufacturers Association measured tire pressure survey, May 2009)

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