

Tire Replacement—Frequently Asked Questions

When should I replace my tires?

When a tire reaches 2/32" of remaining tread depth it is time look at replacing the tire. North American tire manufacturers have placed wear bars which are molded plastic indicators, across the tread so you can see when tires no longer meet minimum tread depth requirements. Once a tire is at 2/32" remaining tread depth hydroplaning both in rain and snow can become an issue and cause potential serious problems. Your San Jose tire service center can offer advice on when best to replace your tires on your vehicle.

What is the right size for my vehicle?

The first thing your tire must be able to do is carry the weight of your vehicle. Regardless of the make or brand of the tire if it is overworked by just carrying the load, it will not perform well. So when selecting new tires always make sure you choose a tire that is designed to carry the weight of your vehicle, to ensure safe driving and good performance. If you do not know which size tire your vehicle requires, your experienced San Jose tire specialist can help you make the right selection.

How many tires do I need?

Style and personality issues aside, if you have unmatched tires it can affect performance and may result in slower response time and difficulty in control and steering. However, replacing all your tires can be costly and unnecessary if only one or two tires actually need replacement.

Just one tire. If you need to replace just one tire because it was damaged by an accident, road hazard or a vandal, try to replace it with an exact match - same brand, line, size and speed rating. If you cannot find an exact match, select a tire as close as possible to the original.

Two tires. The same philosophy holds true for replacing two tires—find an exact match or one that comes as close as possible to the original tires. By doing so, you have a much better chance of maintaining the same performance as the original set. When your San Jose tire specialist is replacing the worn tires, ask him what caused only two tires to wear out—alignment problems, mechanical issues, lack of tire rotation, or something else? By determining the cause of the problem and correcting it you can save your new tires from wearing out in the same fashion.

Full set of tires. If all four tires wear at the same or similar rate then you have great flexibility in your replacement choices. If your existing brand and make of tire performed well, simply replace them but if you want better performance or other features consult with your San Jose tire specialist on what make and brand of tire can fulfill your driving needs.