



be tire smart play your **PART**

PRESSURE • ALIGNMENT • ROTATION • TREAD

A consumer education program of the Rubber Manufacturers Association

Tire Safety Fact Sheet

- ✓ Each month, three out of four drivers wash their cars while only one out of seven correctly checks their tire pressure.
- ✓ Motorists rank checking tire pressure as the second most important regular vehicle safety action, but more than three times as many drivers believe regular oil changes are most important to the safe operation of their vehicles.
- ✓ Only 15 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
- ✓ More than half of drivers -- 55 percent -- *wrongly* believe that the correct inflation pressure is printed on the tire sidewall.
- ✓ 30 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 1/3 of drivers *wrongly* believe that if they are taking a trip with a fully loaded vehicle that they are better off if their tires are a little bit underinflated.
- ✓ Two out of three drivers don't know how to tell if their tires are bald.
- ✓ 71 percent of drivers do not check their tire pressure in their spare tire.
- ✓ 40 percent of drivers have not rotated their tires within the recommended interval of at least 8,000 miles.

The RMA sponsored survey was conducted by FrederickPolls to 2,200 drivers nationwide from January 29-February 11, 2004 and has a margin of error of 2%



RUBBER
manufacturers
association

1400 K Street, NW • Washington, DC 20005 • tel (202) 682-4800 • fax (202) 682-4854 • www.rma.org