



# be tire smart play your **PART**

PRESSURE • ALIGNMENT • ROTATION • TREAD

A consumer education program of the Rubber Manufacturers Association

## Tire Care Fact Sheet

- ✓ **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
- ✓ 45 percent of drivers *wrongly* believe that the correct inflation pressure is printed on the tire sidewall. Another 15 percent do not know where to find the correct pressure.
- ✓ 26 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.
- ✓ Only one out of three drivers knows how to tell if tires are bald.
- ✓ 71 percent of drivers do not check the tire pressure in their spare tire.
- ✓ Each month, nearly seven out of ten drivers wash their cars while only one out of seven correctly checks their tire pressure.
- ✓ 63 percent of motorists cite checking tire pressure as a top fuel saving tip.\*

### Federal Government Statistics

- ✓ 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)
- ✓ 27 percent of passenger cars and 32 percent of light trucks have at least one significantly under inflated tire. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration survey, August 2001)

*The RMA sponsored survey was conducted by FrederickPolls to 1,000 drivers nationwide from February 4-9, 2007 and has a margin of error of 3 percent.*

*\*\*From February 2006 RMA-sponsored survey.*

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