

Your car's tyres are the only part of the vehicle that grips the road so keeping an eye on tyre pressure & the depth of tread is important to keep you safe.

There are three main reasons for checking your tyres regularly:

Safety

Under-inflated, damaged or worn tyres can lead to blow-outs.

Economy

Over/under inflation means tyres need to be replaced more often.

Fuel Efficiency

Incorrect tyre pressure means you won't get as much mpg.

Tyre Pressure

Your vehicle's recommended tyre pressure can usually be found in your vehicle handbook, on the inside of the petrol cap or on your manufacturer's online portal.

How to check your tyre pressure

Only check tyre pressures when tyres are cold, or you won't get an accurate reading.

You can check your tyres' air at most UK petrol stations. Unscrew the valve caps off your tyre/s and follow the easy instructions on the machine. Be sure to put your valve cap/s back on tightly when you're done.

While you're filling, have a look for nails, cuts, lumps and bumps. If you do find any surface irregularities, you're at risk of having a tyre blow-out, so get your vehicle to a tyre professional ASAP.

Tyre Tread

New tyres start with a tread depth of around 8mm; manufacturers recommend replacing tyres under 3mm for safety.

It's illegal to drive a passenger car in Europe with a tread depth of less than 1.6mm within the central three-quarters of the tread width. However, bear in mind that at this legal minimum of 1.6mm, your stopping distance can increase by 50% and your tyres can be as little as 55% effective compared to tyres with the 3mm recommended thread depth.*

How to check your tyre tread

You can use a tread depth gauge to measure the depth of the main grooves – any less than 3mm and you should think about replacing your tyre soon. If you don't have a tyre tread depth gauge, you can use a 20p coin to give you a good idea.

20p tyre tread depth test

You can use the simple 20p test to check your tyre tread depth:

- Insert a 20p coin into the main groove of your tyres in several places around the circumference.
- If you can't see the thin border around the edge of the coin, your tyre tread is deeper than 3mm and considered safe.
- If you can see the border of the coin above the tread, it is less than 3mm and should be checked by a tyre professional.

Tyre Repair & Replacement

Most leasing companies will replace worn tyres under 2mm tread depth for free on a fully maintained contract.

Covase customers: replacements for worn tyres (2mm thread depth or less) are included in all fully maintained leasing contracts with us so if you are concerned about your tyre tread call the number on your Covase driver card for advice.

Tyre Blow-Outs

A blow-out is not a flat tyre. A blow-out is a violent tyre failure; all the air is released instantly and can put the driver and other road users in danger. The most common causes of a tyre blow-out are:

Under-inflated tyres

Incorrect tyre pressure is a major cause of tyre blow-outs.

Heavily worn tyres

Dangerous levels of wear on a tyre's tread depth increases the risk of a blow-out.

Tyre irregularities

Tyre surface cuts, lumps and bumps can also cause blow-outs.

You can greatly reduce the risk of a having a blow-out with regular tyre pressure and tread depth checks. However, with millions of drivers unsure of how to do these basic of vehicle checks, you can always trust your fleet maintenance to our professionals to reduce the risk.

** At 50mph in wet weather it takes 50% more road to stop than if your tread was at the recommended depth of 3mm. At 1.6mm tread depth, a tyre can be as little as 55% effective compared to a new tyre with 8mm tread depth.*