

FAQs on Wheel and Tyre Maintenance

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What is the minimum recommended tread depth? The minimum permitted tyre tread depth is 1.6 mm. For safety reasons it is recommended that each tyre should have at least 3.0 mm tread depth. Most new tyres have 8.0 mm.

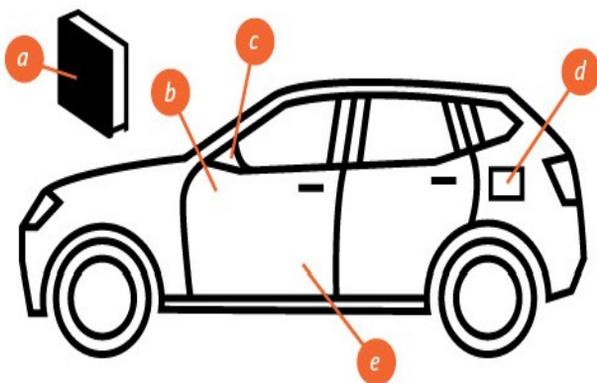
Is my tyre legal to use if tread depth measures 3.0 mm in the centre but 1.6 mm on the sides? Yes. It's the central three-quarters of the tread pattern which must be greater than 1.6 mm in order to be legal for use on the road.

How do I check the tread depth of my tyres?

You can check your tyre tread depth by running a €1 coin along the centre of the wheel as illustrated. If the gold part of the coin is *not* visible, then the tyre tread is ok. However, if it is visible your tyre could be approaching the minimum legal depth so you should get them checked.



Where to find your tyre pressure:



- a** Inside the car user manual
- b** In your glove compartment
- c** The pressure warning light on your dashboard
- d** Inside the fuel cover
- e** Inside your door

Where can I check if my tyres are the correct pressure? The Irish Tyre Industry Association (ITIA) offer a list of [certified tyre dealers](#) who will carry out pressure checks and inspect for tread depth, wear and damage.

What are the regulations on tyres? It is an offence to drive with defective or worn tyres. This attracts a fine of €80 and up to four penalty points upon conviction. For more information see our booklet on [Tyre Safety](#).

Will tyres fail a roadworthiness test if they are more than six years old? No, provided they meet the minimum tread depth of 1.6 mm and are free from any defects i.e. cuts, bulges, tears etc. However, all tyres over six years will receive a Pass Advisory. This is not a fail, just a precaution.

Who is responsible for overseeing maintenance of tyre inflation systems at garages? We have no authority to enforce the provision or proper maintenance of existing tyre inflation facilities at garages. It is the garage's responsibility to maintain their equipment and these are generally provided as a courtesy. Garages are not legally required to maintain them to an industry standard.

Can I disable the tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS)? No. Such systems should always be maintained as per the original manufacturer's specifications and replaced in the event of a malfunction.

How do I re-set the TPMS? This should not be re-set until the tyre pressure is correct. You will need to contact the manufacturer or refer to owner's manual before resetting.

Is it legal to use a plug instead of a patch on a puncture? Plugs are only legal when fitted to the treaded area of a tyre but not the sidewall and should only be used as a temporary solution until a new tyre is fitted.

What if I get a puncture on the roadside? If the vehicle is blocking traffic or likely to cause an accident it should be towed immediately to the nearest place of safety or repair and the speed must not exceed 32 km/h.

What if I get a puncture on the motorway? Move the vehicle onto the hard shoulder, park as near as possible to the embankment, switch on hazard lights and call a recovery operator. Do not attempt to replace or repair the tyre.

Do all four tyres have to be the same? No. However under testing laws a vehicle will fail if the two tyres on the one axle are not the same size or type e.g. radial vs. cross-ply, run-flat, winter or summer. For best performance the same type of tyre should be fitted on all four wheel positions.

Are space saver or run-flat tyres legal? Yes. Many vehicles are supplied with a space saver or run-flat tyre or a repair kit instead of a spare wheel. Repair kits include an aerosol based sealant inflation device. Always consult the owner's manual. Space saver wheels are intended for emergency purposes only. The speed rating affixed to such tyres should never be exceeded to prevent possible tyre failure.

What checks are recommended for checking the security of vehicle wheels after a tyre change? The Irish Tyre Industry Association (ITIA) advise that the wheel should be hand torqued and owner's manuals recommend that final wheel nut check should be carried out within 30 miles after fitting.