

TIRE TOPICS

Safe Tires, Safe Trips: 10 Tips [®]

(NAPSA)—Before hitting the roads for your next trip, it's a good idea to take a few minutes to check the condition of your tires. Well-maintained tires keep your car safer and help it last longer. They can save you money, too. Properly inflated tires help increase gas mileage.

The following 10 tips can help to keep your tires in good shape and your travels safe. They come from the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA):

- Consult with a knowledgeable tire or automobile dealer about selecting the proper tire for your driving patterns.

- Buy a tire gauge and keep it handy in your car at all times.

- Check your tire pressure at least once per month, especially before a long trip, and do so before your tires are warm from driving.

- During wet weather, slow down to reduce the risk of hydroplaning.

- Rotate your tires every 6,000 miles. If tires show uneven wear, ask your automotive service professional to check for and correct any misalignment, imbalance or other mechanical problem involved before rotation.

- Check your vehicle alignment periodically.

- Inspect and measure your tire tread. Place a penny in the tread groove. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, replace your tires.

- Check the tire sidewalls for gouges or other irregularities.

- Do not overload your vehicle. Doing so can lead to tire failure.

- Have your tire balance checked periodically.

For more information, visit www.nada.org.