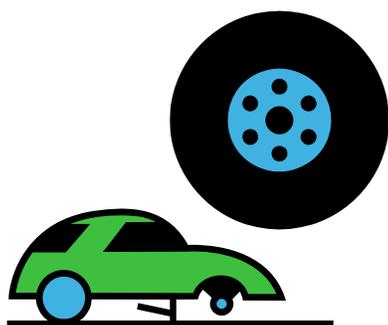


Car Care Articles

Winter Tire Tips

The nights are getting colder and by the time you read this...the first frost has probably arrived. Car Care Canada reminds motorists to start thinking *now* about safe winter driving – and winter tires are a must. Don't be caught off guard by the first snowstorm or a quick drop in temperature!



Why Winter Tires?

Winter tires have an aggressive tread design that provide a better grip while throwing off snow and slush, providing more stability when braking and better vehicle handling.

The rubber compound of a winter tire is relatively soft. The rubber in an all-season tire starts to lose elasticity and harden at temperatures around -8°C to -10°C , greatly reducing grip. At -15°C , this type of tire will have lost all its elasticity, whereas a winter tire will only harden at around -40°C – it therefore retains its elasticity for much longer.

When purchasing/installing winter tires, remember the following:

- **Install four winter tires** - To help maintain control and stability of your vehicle in icy conditions, always install winter tires in sets of four.
- **Mixing tires** with different tread patterns, internal construction, and size degrades the stability of the vehicle and should be avoided.
- **As a tire wears, snow traction is reduced.** Tires that are worn close to the tread-wear indicators have reduced traction and should not be used on snow-covered roads or in severe snow conditions.
- **Proper air pressure** extends tread life, improves safety, and reduces fuel consumption — all vital factors in saving energy and protecting the environment. Tire pressure decreases as temperatures drop, so be sure to check the pressures at least once a month when the tires are cold, preferably after the car has been out all night.

For more information about vehicle maintenance and safety, visit the Be Car Care Aware website at www.carcarecanada.ca.

The Rubber Association of Canada also offers more information about tires through their "Be Tire Smart" program. Visit www.betiresmart.ca.