



be tire smart play your **PART**

PRESSURE • ALIGNMENT • ROTATION • TREAD

A consumer education program of the Rubber Manufacturers Association

National Tire Safety Fact Sheet 2003

- ✓ Each month, three out of four drivers wash their cars while only one out of seven correctly checks their tire pressure.
- ✓ Tires are ranked second as the most important safety feature in vehicles.
- ✓ Only 14 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
- ✓ 55 percent of drivers *wrongly* believe that the correct inflation pressure is printed on the tire sidewall.
- ✓ 1/3 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.
- ✓ 45 percent of drivers *wrongly* believe that if they are taking a trip with a fully loaded vehicle that they are better off if their tires are a little bit underinflated.
- ✓ Nearly 7 out of 10 drivers don't know how to tell if their tires are bald.
- ✓ 71 percent of drivers do not check their tire pressure in their spare tire.
- ✓ 43 percent of drivers have not rotated their tires within the recommended interval of at least 8,000 miles.
- ✓ Almost half of drivers, 49 percent -- named a tire industry source as the most trustworthy to provide the right information about proper tire care.

The RMA-sponsored survey was conducted by FrederickPolls to 2,350 drivers nationwide from January 30-February 6, 2003 and has a margin of error of 2%



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