



10 Tips for Preventing Premature Tire Failure

Whether you're driving a 9 car stinger or a 3 car wedge, breakdowns happen. According to the Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC), tires are the cause of 53.5% of roadside breakdowns. Since tires play such an important role in vehicle operation, it can be beneficial for drivers to understand how to prevent wear and tear. Here are 10 tips on how to prevent premature tire failure.

1. Inflate and Inspect - Proper tire inflation is the most important factor in prolonging tire life and getting the best performance from tires. Tires are optimized to have a certain amount of air in them to carry the load. There is a small window of variance (plus or minus 10%) that can affect the performance of a tire as far as ride quality, fuel economy and tread life. A tire that is underinflated for the load it is carrying will develop irregular wear, will run hotter and will fail prematurely. An overinflated tire will produce a harsher ride, experience reduced traction and become more susceptible to damage from road hazards and curbing.

2. Use a Good Valve Cap - There is a purpose to valve caps, besides having the ability to become quickly lost. Valve caps protect the valve core from moisture and debris. Metal valve caps come with a rubber washer or o ring that works as a backup seal to prevent air from escaping if the valve core leaks.

3. Keep Air Clean & Dry - The quality of the air inside your tires can have a big effect on how much life you get out of them. Tires are developed and designed to run with air - clean, dry air. Every air compressor should have filters and in-line dryers to ensure the air going into the tire is dry. When air that is contaminated with water gets inside the tire, the moisture can break down the inner liner and the steel belts.

4. Wash Tires & Wheels - There's a good reason for keeping them clean other than just looks. Snow, ice, slush or other debris that remain on a tire can cause the rubber to deteriorate prematurely. Salt and other chemicals used on roadways to clear them in winter weather can eat away not only at tires, but also at steel or aluminum wheels.

5. Buy the Right Tires - No matter how well you take care of your tires, if you're not running the right kind for your application, the process becomes far more difficult.

6. Watch - For any fleet, one of the hardest things to control is driving habits. Driving style has a major impact on tread wear, just as it does on overall fuel economy. An experienced driver,



following good driving and maintenance practices, could achieve up to twice the removal miles of an inexperienced driver.

7. Keep Wheels Aligned – The purpose of proper alignment is to minimize tire wear and to maximize predictable vehicle handling and driver control. “Alignment refers not only to the various angles of the steer axle geometry, but also to the tracking of all axles on a vehicle, including the trailer,” says [Paul Crehan](#), director of product marketing for Michelin Americas Truck Tires.

8. Analyze Scrap Tires - Scrap tire analysis is an excellent way for fleets to understand why tires are failing or have to be removed from service prematurely.

9. Keep Good Records - Tire recordkeeping is very important to determine tire cost per mile and to make good tire purchasing decisions. The system used (paper or computer) is only as good as the person or persons recording and tracking the data.

10. Consider Tire Telematics - For years there have been tire pressure monitoring systems, but telematics takes things a step further. Instead of just sending an alert to the driver in the cab, these systems alert fleet management in real time via the truck's mobile communication systems.

NVTA has made making your new tire purchases easier. We partnered with Continental, Bridgestone, Goodyear and Michelin to provide you with the quality products you want at a price you deserve. While prices vary from brand to brand we can ensure we have what you need when you need it!

[Take advantage](#) of the NVTA Tire Pricing and start saving money TODAY!