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[PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE](#)

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Ontario County Sheriff Philip C. Povero Deflates Mystery of Good Tire Care

The County Sheriff's Office, as part of its ongoing commitment to driving safety, offers some guidelines on proper tire maintenance. For starters, drivers should inspect the molding on their tire sidewalls, where they will find the federal government's Uniform Tire Quality Grading System. This area provides consumers with comparative data on tire performance.

It is the tread-wear rating that indicates how long the tire will last. According to the system, a wear rating of 300 to 400 is good, and 500 to 700 is very good. If you are looking for economy, the typical tread-wear warranty is no more than 40,000 miles. Most drivers typically chose near-premium tires, with tread-wear warranties of between 60,000 and 70,000 miles. A premium model will last up to 80,000 miles or more.

To understand how a tire will stop on a wet surface should also be considered. "AA" or "A" is a preferable rating for most vehicles. Tires with a "B" and "C" rating are also available. For those in hot climates, temperature ratings are a consideration. The ratings of "A" and "B" are considered the best, though "C" is also available.

Consumer Reports magazine is a good resource for current information on the best tires and tire maintenance. The magazine offers general guidelines for purchasing new tires including:

- Sticking with the tires that your vehicle came with. Don't buy more than your car needs.
- All-season tires are best for most passenger cars.
- Those living in northern regions with harsh winters should consider a second pair of winter tires.
- Buy the freshest tire possible, which can be determined by reading the last three or four numbers of the serial number. The numbers might look like this: DOT M6 RV TIHR 499. The date code translated means the tire was made the 49th week of 1999. Beware of older stock.

Tire pressure is the most critical safety check. Pressure readings should be compared with recommended readings found inside the vehicle's doorjamb (or check the operator's manual), NOT the pressure indicated on the sidewall. The latter indicates the maximum pressure allowed. Low pressure can cause excessive heat, causing tires to fail.

"By following these simple guidelines, drivers can minimize blow-outs and operate their vehicle with the peace of mind the manufacturer intended."

The Tire Industry Safety Council points out the importance of proper tire inflation. The Council advocates that the right amount of air pressure means tires wear better and longer, saves fuel and prevents accidents.

Tires lose air normally due to temperature fluctuations, especially heat. And although one of the more controversial aspects of the Firestone recall centered on consumers making adjustments to the manufacturer's recommended tire pressure, the Council discourages making such judgment calls.

Mounting ones own tires is also discouraged because most drivers lack the requisite equipment. If a tire is replaced, the correct tire diameter must be matched to the vehicle.