

EASY REFERENCE GUIDE

MOTORCYCLE TYRES

MOTORCYCLE TYRES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR KEEPING YOU AND YOUR PASSENGERS SAFE ON THE ROAD.

THE RIDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TYRE CONDITION.

CHECK YOUR TYRES ONCE A WEEK



INFLATION PRESSURE

Tyre pressures influence how your motorcycle handles, brakes and accelerates. Correct pressures reduce your risk of an incident on the road.



CONDITION

Tyres are in physical contact with the road and can be damaged by debris, potholes and curbs. It's essential to check your tyres for anything unusual.



TREAD

Tread ensures a tyre stays in contact with the road during wet conditions. You need to be aware of the minimum legal limit for your size of motorcycle.



RUNNING IN TYRES

After fitting new tyres, allow time to 'scuff-in'. Ride cautiously and avoid maximum power/speed/braking for the first 100 miles, check again for correct seating and inflation then gradually increase lean angles, acceleration and braking.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR BIKE TYRES



AIR PRESSURE



CONDITION



TREAD



PUNCTURE REPAIR

WHAT IT IS

Tyre inflation pressure depends on the amount of air that has been pumped into your tyre. It is measured in pounds per square inch (psi), bar or kPa. Your vehicle manufacturer recommends the suitable pressure for your tyres.

A general visual inspection for any bulges, cuts, objects in the tread.

The tread is the part of the tyre that contacts the road. The tread pattern is designed to improve grip on wet roads, but its effectiveness gradually reduces as the tread wears down.

It's not uncommon for debris to penetrate a motorcycle tyre but you should consider whether it is safe to repair or better to replace it.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Correct tyre inflation pressure improves vehicle handling and braking distance. It reduces the risk of tyre damage and possibility of a catastrophic failure while riding. Correctly inflated tyres also last longer and use less fuel.

Objects caught in the tyre tread can cause significant damage if not removed. Bulges may indicate the tyre has internal damage: cuts and cracks may mean the tyre is no longer safe to use. If present, all should be checked by a professional.

Without adequate tread depth your tyres may not perform properly in wet conditions, reducing your safety on the road. Your braking, steering and accelerating are all affected by your tyre tread.

Tyres should only be repaired in specific areas and according to BS AU 159g standards. Failure of a puncture repair while riding is extremely dangerous.

HOW TO CHECK

Use an accurate pressure gauge. Check your pressures when the tyres are cold against the motorcycle manufacturer's recommended settings for the load being carried. These can be found in the owner's handbook and sometimes on the swing arm. Top up with air if required.

Remove any stones or objects from the tread. If there are any lumps or bulges, get them checked by a professional as they could be a sign of internal damage. Check for signs of ageing such as cracking of the rubber or distortion of the tread. Remove any oil or grease with a suitable diluted detergent.

Use an accurate gauge to measure your tread depths. The minimum requirements in the UK are:
Up to 50cc - The tread pattern must be visible tread over the whole tread area.
Over 50cc - 1mm across 3/4 of the width of the tread and with visible tread on the remaining 1/4.

No tyre with a speed symbol above V should be repaired according to BS AU 159. If suitable for repair, tyres up to J speed symbol may be repaired twice, but above J up to and including V only once. Never consider a string-type repair as permanent.