

**THE FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM A RECENT ARTICLE
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INC. AND HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY MODIFIED.
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The top 10 things every fleet should do to extend tire life (whether you have a fleet of one truck or one thousand).

1. Determine proper inflation pressure—More truckers have problems doing this than you would think. Your tire professional can be invaluable in helping select the right pressure for the tires in your operation, which will provide the best foot print for optimal tread wear, fuel efficiency and impact resistance.
2. Establish a good inflation maintenance program—It takes a lot of work to maintain tires properly. This can be done by using TPMS or automatic tire inflation systems, or by using your own service technicians better or by using a combination of all of these resources.
3. Maintain tire tread depths and pull tires before they're worn too far—Casings that are lost due to treads being worn too far are a complete and unnecessary waste of a fleet's assets. Let your tire professional determine the optimum tread depth at which you should remove tires for retreading while keeping in mind the availability of your vehicles and operational requirements. Establishing a good tire inspection program will help ensure tires are removed properly.
4. Establish a quality retread and repair program—If you do not have a written retread and repair program, sit down with your tire professional and create one. This can be bullet points that specify the treads your fleet uses, the number of times you want to retread a casing, age limits if any, repair specifications, service requirements (turn-around time), quality acceptance criteria, etc. This will ensure that both you and your tire professional know what is expected.
5. Keep vehicles properly aligned—Misalignment is the second leading cause of irregular wear after improper inflation pressure.
6. Mount tires correctly—Lack of lubricant in mounting/demounting tires and non-concentric mounting are leading causes of bead damage and irregular wear. Tires should also be mounted with the light spot matched with the valve stem if new tires are so marked. That will help ensure a more balanced assembly and better tread wear.
7. Match tires correctly—For optimum tread wear, dual tires should be matched by size and be within 1/4-inch diameter side by side and across the axle.

8. Check and replace worn suspension and brake components—These components are a leading cause of irregular tread wear and tire damage.

9. Reduce top speeds—Heat caused by high speeds accelerates tread wear.

10. Tire storage—To avoid damage that can reduce tire life, tires should be stored in a cool, dry place where water cannot collect inside them.

The value of a good tire program and regular maintenance has never been so great due to their impact on tire and fuel costs fleets are experiencing. Your tire professional is ready and willing to help. You can reduce your tire and tire maintenance costs by following the above steps.

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