

Tyre Tire Markings: What Do They Mean?

Tyre markings are an essential source of information for understanding the specifications, capabilities, and safety features of your tires. By deciphering these markings, you can make informed decisions about which tires are right for your vehicle and driving needs.



Tyre/Tire Markings! What do they mean? by Nik Handford

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Tyre Size

The most prominent marking on a tire is its size. This marking typically includes the following information, expressed in the following order:

- **Tire width:** The width of the tire in millimeters, measured from sidewall to sidewall.
- **Aspect ratio:** The height of the tire's sidewall as a percentage of its width. For example, an aspect ratio of 55 means that the sidewall

height is 55% of the tire's width.

- **Rim diameter:** The diameter of the tire's bead, measured in inches.

For example, a tire with the size marking "205/55R16" has a width of 205 millimeters, an aspect ratio of 55%, and a rim diameter of 16 inches.

Tyre Speed Rating

The tire speed rating is a letter code that indicates the maximum speed at which the tire is designed to perform safely. The speed rating is based on the tire's construction, materials, and tread design.

The following table lists the most common tire speed ratings and their corresponding maximum speeds:

Speed Rating	Maximum Speed
N	87 mph (140 km/h)
P	99 mph (160 km/h)
Q	100 mph (160 km/h)
R	106 mph (170 km/h)
S	112 mph (180 km/h)
T	118 mph (190 km/h)
U	124 mph (200 km/h)

Speed Rating	Maximum Speed
H	130 mph (210 km/h)
V	149 mph (240 km/h)
W	168 mph (270 km/h)
Y	186 mph (300 km/h)

Tyre Load Index

The tire load index is a number that indicates the maximum amount of weight that the tire can safely support under specified conditions.

The following table lists the most common tire load indexes and their corresponding maximum loads:

Load Index	Maximum Load (lbs)
70	772
71	805
72	838
73	873
74	909
75	948

Load Index	Maximum Load (lbs)
76	988
77	1030
78	1074
79	1120
80	1168

Tyre Tread Pattern

The tire tread pattern is designed to provide traction, stability, and drainage in various driving conditions.

The following are the most common types of tire tread patterns:

- **Symmetrical tread:** This type of tread pattern is the same on both sides of the tire. Symmetrical treads are designed to provide good all-around performance in a variety of conditions.
- **Asymmetrical tread:** This type of tread pattern is different on the inside and outside of the tire. Asymmetrical treads are designed to provide enhanced cornering grip and wet weather traction.
- **Directional tread:** This type of tread pattern has a specific direction of rotation. Directional treads are designed to provide optimal water drainage and snow traction.

- **All-season tread:** This type of tread pattern is designed to provide good performance in a variety of conditions, including dry, wet, and snowy roads.
- **Winter tread:** This type of tread pattern is designed to provide optimal traction and stability in snow and ice.

Tyre Construction

The tire construction refers to the materials and methods used to build the tire.

The following are the most common types of tire construction:

- **Radial construction:** This type of construction uses cords that run radially from the bead to the tread. Radial tires are designed to provide a smooth ride and good fuel economy.
- **Bias-ply construction:** This type of construction uses cords that run diagonally from bead to bead. Bias-ply tires are designed to provide more strength and durability for off-road applications.
- **Run-flat construction:** This type of construction uses a reinforced sidewall that allows the tire to continue operating even after a puncture.

Tyre DOT Code

The tire DOT code is a unique identifier that is assigned to each tire. The DOT code contains information about the tire's manufacturer, plant of origin, date of manufacture, and safety certification.

The DOT code typically consists of the following information:

- **Manufacturer code:** This is a two-digit code that identifies the tire manufacturer.
- **Plant code:** This is a two-digit code that identifies the plant where the tire was manufactured.
- **Date code:** This is a four-digit code that indicates the week and year the tire was manufactured.
- **Safety certification:** This is a one-digit code that indicates the tire has met all applicable safety standards.

Tyre markings provide a wealth of information about a tire's specifications, capabilities, and safety features. By understanding these markings, you can make informed decisions about which tires are right for your vehicle and driving needs.

When purchasing new tires, be sure to consult with a tire professional to discuss your specific requirements. They can help you select the right tires for your vehicle, driving style, and budget.



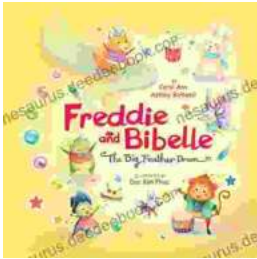
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