A technician checks a tire tread for wear during a multipoint vehicle inspection.

“Tires are an engineering marvel, with 20 individual compounds and components designed to provide the customer with an optimum blend of performance and durability,” said Cowger. “Replacing your tires with anything besides the original equipment Tire Performance Criteria-specified tire can impact many performance aspects of a vehicle, including braking, steering, cornering, ride and handling, noise and vibration, traction and even fuel economy.”

Basic Tire Maintenance Tips

A few simple tire maintenance steps can help identify and address problems before needing replacement:

• Check for uneven wear or excessive tread wear.
• Make sure all tires, including the spare, are properly inflated. Inspect tires to recommended pressures. Underinflated tires can increase fuel economy by up to 3.3 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
• Properly rotate tires at recommended intervals.
• Properly align and balance wheels.

How To Tell If You Need New Tires

Tire wear depends on several factors, including driving style and tire maintenance habits. One way to know when to replace tires is when tread wear appears.

A tire’s built-in tread-wear indicators are “wear bars” that look like narrow strips of smooth rubber across the tread and appear when it’s time to replace the tire. A new tire is needed if:

• The indicators on three or more places around the tire are visible.
• Cord or fabric is showing through the tire’s rubber.
• The tread or sidewall is cracked, cut or snapped deep enough to show cord or fabric.
• The tire has a bulge or split.
• The tire has a puncture, cut or other damage that can’t be repaired well because of the size or location of the damage.

Buying New Tires

To determine what kind and size of tire are needed, check the vehicle label. For GM vehicles engineered in North America, the tires installed on each new vehicle have a Tire Performance Criteria Specification (TPC Spe) number on each tire’s sidewall. When purchasing new tires, get ones with that same TPC Spec number to ensure tires are consistent. New tire designers have tires designed to give proper endurance, handling, speed rating, traction, tread and performance during normal service on the vehicle. If the tires have an all-season tire design, the TPC number will be followed by an “M+S” (for mud and snow).

Learn More

For more information, visit the GM Goodwrench Web site at www.goodwrench.com.

(NAPSA)—As a driver’s ultimate connection to the road, tires need to be regularly inspected and properly maintained or replaced to preserve their performance and handling characteristics.

According to the experts at the Care Council, during a recent National Car Care month, 21 percent of the vehicles inspected in check lanes had improperly inflated tires and 16 percent had worn tread. “Check for Inflated Tires.”

“Consumers need to be choosy when purchasing new tires and replace them with the manufacturer’s specified tires for their vehicle, because when it comes to tires, one size does not fit all,” said Dave Cowger, engineering group manager of the Tire-Wheel Systems Lab at General Motors.

GM’s Tire-Wheel Systems Laboratory puts North American-designed tire-wheel assemblies through stringent tests to ensure they meet or exceed federal, national and Society of Automotive Engineers criteria.

GM’s tire and wheel engineers develop exclusive Tire Performance Criteria (TPC) specifications for each vehicle engineered in North America. This helps ensure tire performance, handling and durability under a variety of driving conditions. Major tire manufacturer engineers work together with GM’s tire and wheel engineers during the validation process.

Only those select tires approved through GM’s TPC process are stamped with a TPC spec number, so customers can go to a GM-specific vehicle retail store and order a new tire specifically engineered to go with a GM-specific vehicle.

Genius is the ability to reduce the complicated to the simple.
–C. W. Geran

Genius...is the capacity to see 10 things where the ordinary man sees one.
—Ezra Pound

The lamp of genius burns quicker than the lamp of Fried
–Johann Friedrich Von Schiller

Genius is the ability to put into effect what is in your mind.
–F. Scott Fitzgerald

In my heart, I think a woman born beautiful is a feminist or a masochist.
–Glória Steinem

(NAPSA)—If you enjoy roaming the road with your recreational vehicle (RV), you have lots of company. Millions enjoy that freedom, too. Here are some general tips that will help to steer you towards a stress-free season on the road.

Clean it up and air it out. Open all doors, windows and then remove any pest control items you may have placed during winter storage. It is also a good idea to clean or replace air conditioner filters. Check for damage.

Check the battery. Inspect the engine.

Check all lights (headlights, taillights, brake lights and turn signals) for malfunctions.

Check the cooling and fuel systems. Change the transmission fluid and filters.

Check for cracks in hoses and lines. Check the fuel filter prior to storage and again in the spring. During storage, separate and cause condensation buildup that may harm the engine. While replacing spark plugs, be sure to set the gaps to the recommended spark plug’s setting.

Inspect the engine.

• Check the battery.
• Check the engine and fuel systems.
• Drain and flush the system of the antifreeze and water you used before placing the RV into storage and replace with the proper coolant.

• Check for cracks in hoses and lines and replace if necessary.
• Replace fuel filter, and examine the fuel lines and fittings for cracks and leaks.
• Change the transmission fluid and filters.
• Flush the water system.