

INFLATING CAR TIRES

Proper tire care is an important element of car maintenance. Part of that care is checking the tire pressure. Not only is it safer to have correct pressure in your tires, it also saves money. Under-inflated tires don't roll as well and cost you more in gas.

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EARN THIS NUGGET

Check the tire pressure on a vehicle and compare with the recommendation. Add or release air as necessary.

LEVEL H

PERIOD 6

TASK 2

Over-inflated tires, especially to an extreme level, can be in danger of explosion. It also changes your tread pattern on your tires so they don't wear or grip as intended. Tires that are too soft will wear unevenly as well and will tend to want to roll off the rim around corners causing poor handling. So, let's look at the basics of checking car tire inflation and maintaining proper pressure.

1. First thing, let's check the recommended tire pressure. This will be printed on the tire wall. But in some cases, on trucks for instance, the pressure is higher for the rear tire than the front. So I recommend checking the manual to be sure.

2. First step is to use a tire gauge. There are several types on the market, the dial type is the easiest to read. The plunger type, however, is very common because they are cheap to buy. Both will do the job well. So start by testing the pressure in each tire.

3. Now you know any tire that is under-inflated and any that is over-inflated.

4. For any over-inflated tire, unscrew the valve stem cap and with a fingernail, or even better, a pen or screwdriver, press the plunger inside to let air out. Do it little by little and keep checking the pressure. You don't want to let out too much air.

5. For those that need inflating, you will need a pump. There are lots of different pumps- hand pumps, foot pumps, electric pumps. All of these will work, but some will wear you out for sure. Most gas stations will have a pay air pump too. To inflate, remove the valve stem caps and inflate. Keep checking the pressure until you reach the desired level.

6. Finally, ensure that all valve stem caps are put back on and put everything away. A job is not complete until everything has been put away.

