

ASSESS WEAR AND TEAR

Examine your tires frequently for high or low areas or unusually smooth tread. Take note of any visible impacts, penetrations, cracks, knots, bulges, or air loss—all of which should be inspected by an expert to determine if the tires need to be repaired or replaced. Also, have your tires rotated every 6–8,000 miles to promote long-lasting, even tread wear.

CHECK TIRE PRESSURE

Properly inflated tires typically perform better, provide improved ride comfort, and achieve optimum fuel efficiency. To make sure your tires are inflated to the vehicle manufacturer recommended levels—found on the driver's side door post, in the glove box, or in your vehicle's owner's manual—check tires when they are cool with an accurate tire pressure gauge. Keep in mind that evidence of air loss or repeated under-inflation warrants further inspection by a professional.

BE PREPARED

The bad news: flats happen. The good news: You can minimize potential damage to your tires by having the right go-to items on hand, including your vehicle's owner's manual, a properly inflated spare tire, a jack, a lug wrench, and bracing material, such as a small piece of wood or a brick.

FIND A PRO

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