

Technical Services Bulletin Motorcycle & Scooter Tires

Tire Storage Recommendations for Motorcycle & Scooter Tires

These recommendations are intended for consumers. For commercial applications of new and waste tires (e.g. tire dealers), there may be more stringent and legal restrictions. Please check local regulations.

Tire compounds are formulated to resist deterioration caused e.g. by sunlight, humidity and ozone. Nevertheless, stored tires should be protected against these and other potentially damaging conditions. The longer the storage period, the more exposure there is to potential damage.

After dismounting from a vehicle, the tires should be thoroughly cleaned and inspected for damage. Remove all stones and debris from the grooves.

General

- **DO** store tires where it is clean, dark, dry and moderately ventilated. Moist conditions should be avoided. Tires destined for retreading/repairing should be thoroughly cleaned and dried out before such operations are performed.
- **DO** store tires whitewall-to-whitewall to avoid staining.
- **DO** store tires, if outdoors, protected by an opaque waterproof covering, but avoid creating a heat box or steam bath. Ensure proper ventilation.
- **DO** store tires, if outdoors, where tires are raised off the storage surface.
- **AVOID** storing tires where the area is wet, oily, and/or greasy such as with gasoline or petroleum-based products.
- **AVOID** storing tires on piers, ship decks, or other unprotected areas.
- **AVOID** storing tires where subject to extreme temperatures direct sunlight or artificial light with a high ultra-violet content. Room lighting with ordinary incandescent lamps is preferable to fluorescent tubes.
- **AVOID** storing tires on black asphalt or other heat absorbent surfaces.
- **AVOID** storing tires adjacent to highly reflective surfaces (i.e., sand or snow-covered ground).
- **AVOID** storing tires in the same area as an electric motor or other ozone generating source. If there is a question, check ozone levels to be sure they do not exceed 0.08 ppm.
- **AVOID** storing tires in the proximity of chemical agents like solvents, fuels, oils, hydrocarbons, paint, acids, disinfectants, etc.
- **DO NOT** use tires as a workbench or tool stand. Soldering irons, power drill and tools can damage a tire.
- **DO NOT** store other items on top of a tire, especially where staining of the surface would be a concern.
- **NEVER** store them near battery chargers, ovens or open fires.
- **NEVER** put a burning cigarette on a pile of tires.

Storage Temperatures

- **DO** store all motorcycle tires at temperatures not exceeding 35°C / 95°F, preferably below 25°C / 77°F.
- **AVOID** storing **conventional motorcycle tires** (Sport/Touring/Off-Road/etc.) at temperatures well below the freezing point (max. -20°C / -4°F).
- **AVOID** storing **race motorcycle tires** (Track/RaceAttack) below 0°C / 32° F.
- **ALWAYS** allow tires - which have been exposed to 0°C / 32°F or less - to warm to room temperature (approx. 20°C / 70° F) for a minimum of 24 hours before the tires are mounted or flexed.
- **NEVER** take motorcycle tires below the above-mentioned storage temperatures for race and conventional tires into service, otherwise it may lead to cracks in compound and/or structure of the tires!

Loose tires or tires mounted on rims, but not installed on a vehicle

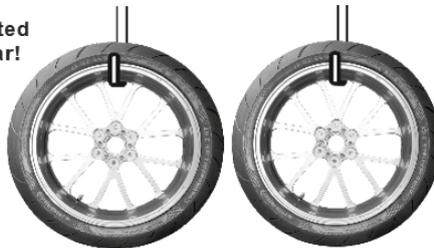
- Store tires so that tires retain their shape. Preferred positions are shown below:

Tires with rims



Do not stand them upright

Inflated
1 bar!



Hang them



or pile them
(restack every four
weeks)

Tires without rims



Do not pile them



or hang them



Stand them upright and
rotate them every four
weeks (on racks
clear of floor)

- Mounted tires should preferably be inflated to only 100 kPa (15 psi).
- **Be sure to adjust the tires to the recommended inflation pressure before mounting on the vehicle.**

Tires installed on a vehicle in long term storage

- If possible, store the vehicle on the main stand or on a motorcycle jack to remove all weight from the tires and cover the tires to protect them from environmental exposure.
- If the vehicle cannot be lifted from the storage surface, completely unload the vehicle, so minimum weight will rest on the tires. The storage surface should be firm, reasonably level, well drained and clean.
- In cases where the tires will be supporting the vehicle, it is permissible to inflate the tires to the maximum pressure listed on the sidewall. Be sure to return the inflation pressure to recommended usage pressure before operating the vehicle.
- In cases where the tires will be supporting the vehicle, it is recommended that the vehicle be moved every month to minimize ozone cracking in the contact area and also to minimize a "flat spot" from developing. If the tires do develop "flat spots," they will usually disappear in a short period of service.

Before Returning Tires to Service

- Inspect tires to be sure they are clean and free from foreign objects or any damages.
- Remove any water or debris that has collected in an unmounted tire.
- Check it for proper inflation pressure before placing it in service on the vehicle.

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