

Phi's Tire Safety Tips **September 26th, 2009**

Pressure level and load limits

1. Be sure you know your proper inflation levels for the front and rear tires.
2. Under a heavy load, increase tire pressure by 3 or 4 pounds.
3. Check your tire pressure level with a quality tire pressure gauge.

Tire wear and care

1. Inspect your tires every time you get on your bike. You only have two.
2. Check for cracks, punctures, blisters, knots, cuts or even excessive wear.
3. If the tread is worn down to the level of the built-in tread wear bars, its time for a tire change.
4. If you change one tire, safety experts say that both tires need to be changed.
5. If you do store your bike during the winter, keep it in a dry cool place, out of direct sunlight.

On the road

1. Avoid riding on the shoulder or near medians where debris may collect.
2. Always monitor the way your bike rides so you can detect any rapid air loss and respond accordingly.
3. Always carry a cell phone with you, and call Wayne or Mark when you have a flat.

Tire shopping

1. Get a matching set of front and rear tires. Do not mix and match, meaning that radials go with radials and belts go with belts. Never ride on one belt and one radial tire.
2. In this case, size matters. Replacement tires should be the same size as the original tires that came with the bike.
3. After you select the tires you want, if they are tube tires, a new set of tubes should also be purchased.

Tire repairs

1. Some punctures in tires may be repaired with permanent plug-patch repairs of small ¼ inch tread area punctures from within the tire by a professional.
2. Never attempt an exterior repair, and never use liquid tire sealant.
3. Speed should not exceed 50 mph, for the first 24 hours, and the repaired tire should not exceed 75 miles of usage before replacement occurs.
4. Maintain suspension settings according to manufactures guidelines.
5. Align the rear wheel each time the rear tire is changed.

Other tips

1. Bent rims should be replaced immediately.
2. Bent rims may cause wobbling, bead unseating and air loss in tubeless tires.
3. Use mild soap to wash your tires. Do not use any other type of product such as Armor All on your tires for obvious reasons.
4. Do not store tires near heat, or electrical motors are running close by. The high concentration of ozone will accelerate tire decay.