

Rodney Idris

Correct tyre pressures

This has always been a favourite subject of mine.

We find most people using a tyre pressure in the order of 200 to 220 kPa in both the front and the rear tyres. It would also seem that this is the pressure that most service stations would recommend if a driver did not know the recommended pressure for their vehicle. When we have new tyres fitted on our vehicle, or have the pressure checked at most tyre dealers, this is almost certainly the pressures that will be used.

The motor vehicle manufacturers spend a fortune on design, development and then testing of vehicles before they are put into mass production. During this development and testing stage, they will evaluate different components, with tyres being one of them, and test them under many different and varied conditions, as well as with different tyre pressures. Ultimately, they will come up with recommended tyres for the vehicle, and these are the ones that would be fitted to the vehicle at the time that it comes out of the plant, and they will also come up with recommended pressures for different conditions. These pressure will consider things like safety in the form of vehicle handling, tyre temperature build up, to ensure that excessive heat is not generated in the tyres, particularly during high speed driving, braking characteristics, wear patterns, tyre life, comfort and fuel economy. You will also almost certainly find differing tyre pressure front and rear.

Should you change to a non approved tyre on the vehicle, or use different tyre pressures to those recommended by the vehicle manufacturer, you will change the handling characteristics of the vehicle and at the end of the day, you could well have a very dangerous condition.

Use the tyre pressures as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. They have gone to great lengths to come up with pressures that will enable the vehicle to handle in the manner in which they intended.

Rodney Idris

February 2020

