

# Tips On Buying Tires For Your Automobile

Don't gamble on barefoot tires, warns the Better Business Bureau. And don't gamble on tires that are not made for your automobile.

You can save plenty by shopping different retailers for car tires. Yet, there are so many types and grades — many with only slight variations from others — that it is difficult to compare them. That's why it is important to buy from a reputable dealer whom you

can trust, the BBB points out.

Your shopping guidelines should include the brand and type of tire you want, backed by comparing prices among several reputable dealers. Prices for the same product can vary greatly. Also find out if the tires have to be balanced (most do) and how much this costs.

You have three basic types of tire construction from which to choose:

*Radial tires* have cords

that run directly across the tire from the points where the tire touches the rim of the wheel. Radials also have belt plies under the tread to reinforce the tire. As of the 1982 model year, radial tires were the only type of tire available as original equipment on passenger cars sold in the U.S.

*Diagonal or bias tires* have two or more body plies which cross at an angle of about 35 degrees to the

centerline of the tread.

*Belted bias tires* are manufactured with a body similar to that of bias tires, but with two or more belts under the tread.

Each type of tire construction has its own advantages. Be sure to check them out with a reputable dealer. If you are in doubt about the dealer, phone your local BBB for a reliability report.

If you are shopping for snow tires, be sure that you

purchase tires that are the same size and construction as the other tires on the car. Never mount bias or belted bias snow tires on the drive wheels (power) of the car if you have radial tires on the non-drive wheels.

Chains for ice and snow should fit the tires properly. Otherwise, the chains may damage the sidewalls of the tires. And if you are considering studded tires, make sure the laws in your area

permit their use. Some states have time limits on the use of studded tires or prohibit their use completely.

The tires you buy should be matched to your needs and those of the car. The tires must be fitted to the loads that you carry and your driving habits. A good key to the selection of replacement tires is the type of tire originally provided by the auto manufacturer.

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## Purchasing A Car

There are eight points you should cover when purchasing a new car, advises the Better Business Bureau. Since new cars cost plenty, these shopping rules are important.

•Get the facts on size and costs. Consider your needs first — not "wants." The full-size car costs more initially than the others. It costs more to operate and maintain. However, it can be more comfortable and carry 6 or more passengers.

The intermediate-size car is slightly smaller than its full-size cousin. It may seat five and costs a bit less to operate and maintain than a full-size.

Compact cars seat two to four fairly comfortably. The compacts are usually cheaper to operate, although maintenance runs about the same as for other cars.

Factor in all costs and credits before buying. This includes trade-in, leased, and rental car factors.

•Shop for the best dealer. The dealer should be dependable. If you're in doubt, check the local Better Business Bureau for a reliability report.

•Check all options and warranties. Warranties must tell you what is covered, who covers it for how long, and what you must do to be satisfied if something goes wrong. Most warranties must be clearly labeled as full or limited.

Ask about options and their cost. These include fabric sealers for upholstery, undercoating, rustproofing.

•Test drive the car. Put it through its paces.

•Negotiate the price. Check your bank's "Blue Book" for your old car's wholesale price; use it as a benchmark when considering a trade-in.

You may get a better deal on last year's model car. And you may get a better deal buying an in-stock car rather than ordering from the factory. Shop other dealers for the same model.

•Financing a new car can be done many ways: through the dealer or your bank; finance companies; insurance companies; and credit unions. Find out who is loaning the money and what company receives the payments and what the loan will cost.

•Closing the deal. Don't sign any final papers until you make sure the car is what you want, the body isn't damaged, parts aren't missing. The dealer must sign that all pre-delivery services have been made. Have all warranties dated and signed.

•The final paper work includes a car title, insurance, registration certificate, license plates, city/county tax licenses, inspection stickers, sales tax on the vehicle. Find out the costs before buying.

## Refund From Page 24

As to service and warranty agreements, many stores will not honor a contract if you have tried to repair damaged merchandise yourself — or had the merchandise repaired at an unauthorized shop. The service and warranty agreement often is voided under these circumstances.

Cash refunds? Stores are

not required by law to return your money unless the goods you purchased are defective or misrepresented. If the store does have a cash refund policy, goods must be in a resalable condition and you must have evidence that the item was actually bought in the store where you go for the refund.

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