When is the right time to change your tires?

Your tread depth

The legal minimum tread depth for passenger car tires in most European countries is 1.6 mm, but the rules vary for heaver-use tires and winter tires.

Worn tread means less grip, especially in wet conditions, so it is often a good idea to change tires before you hit the legal limit.



Use a tread depth gauge or the simple **coin test**, good for most on-the-road tires: Insert a €2 coin into the tread. If you see the silver rim, it's time to change!

Some tires for road use have built-in wear bars - tiny raised lines inside the grooves. If they're level with the tread, they need changing.



Your tire's age

Even if they look fine, tires older than **6 years** can harden and lose performance.

Many manufacturers and safety organizations recommend replacing tires after 6-10 years, regardless of tread depth. Some also recommend not putting unused tires into service if they are over six years old.



For most tires, you can check the tire's sidewall to see the manufacturing date.

On the road tires have a 4 digit DOT code designating the time of manufacturing (e.g., '2719' means the 27th week of 2019).



Signs of uneven wear or damage

If your tire has uneven wear, your alignment or pressure might need to be fixed. If your tire has cracks, bulges or punctures, these are signs you need a replacement.



Regular maintenance extends tire life. Check your tire pressure monthly, rotate your tires regularly and don't ignore alignment.



Seasonal changes

If you live in regions where the weather gets cold or icy, switching between summer and winter tires ensures better performance, grip, and longevity.



When driving a car or truck in Germany or Sweden, your tires must feature the 3PMSF symbol during winter conditions.

Winter conditions = snow, ice, slush or frost on any part of the road.

In Sweden, the rule also applies to any towed vehicles (such as a trailer or caravan).



