



Tire Warranties

Guide To Keep You Rolling Smoothly



This Comprehensive Guide Will Teach You

- *What A Tire Warranty Is*
- *How To Maintain Eligibility*
- *How They Work*
- *Things To Consider*

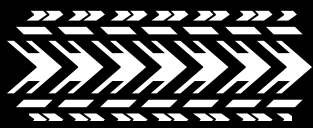
Are you under warranty?





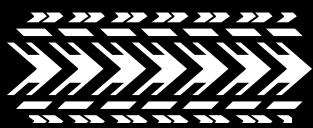
Content

3



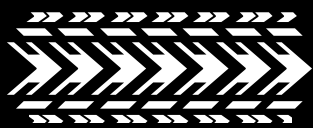
Introduction

4



How It Works

5



Good Example

6



Consider This



Introduction

Tire treadwear/mileage warranties have become a popular marketing strategy among many tire manufacturers and some independent retailers. These warranties are used to competitively position tires in the market and to give consumers an idea of their potential longevity. Currently, these warranties can range from 30,000 to 100,000 miles. However, due to varying road conditions and geographical factors nationwide, not all consumers will reach the promised tire mileage. While treadwear warranties may appear simple, it's crucial to remember that they are limited warranties, and specific maintenance requirements must be met to validate them. Here are some key points to consider:

- *The treadwear/mileage warranty is only valid for the original owner and vehicle, requiring proof of purchase and vehicle mileage on the installation date.*
- *Consumers must demonstrate that the tires were correctly inflated, rotated, and aligned, and that any worn suspension components were replaced as needed.*

How It Works

According to the laws of most states, tires are considered worn out when they have a remaining tread depth of 2/32" (this is evident when the tread blocks/ribs wear down to the bars molded across their tread pattern). Tire manufacturers' treadwear/mileage warranties state that pro-rated replacement will only be applicable when all four tires reach this point.

Treadwear/mileage warranties come with time limits set by the manufacturers, usually expiring after 4, 5, or 6 years from the date of purchase. For instance, a driver who covers 5,000 miles annually and purchases tires warranted for 5 years/40,000 miles would see the warranty expire 5 years from the purchase date, even if they had driven only 25,000 miles. After this period, no warranty claim would be valid if the tires wore out.

****Important Note****

The manufacturers also emphasize that if tires are well-maintained, all four will wear out evenly at around the same time. However, if improper maintenance is evident from the wear pattern, the manufacturer is not obligated to honor the treadwear/mileage warranty.

Good Example

Assuming the tires have been well maintained and worn evenly down to a remaining tread depth of 2/32", let's discuss the consumer benefits. For example, let's consider a set of tires with a 5-year/40,000-mile treadwear/mileage warranty.



If a driver manages to evenly wear out all four tires to 2/32" of remaining tread depth within 30,000 miles, they would be eligible for a new set of tires of similar value from the same manufacturer. These new tires would be available at a 25% discount from the standard retail price, reflecting the prorated value of the 10,000 miles of wear that were not utilized. The driver would be responsible for the difference between the warranted mileage and the actual mileage, as well as the costs for mounting, balancing, and installing the replacement tires.

Consider This

There is one issue with mileage warranties as tires need to reach the treadwear indicators before they qualify for replacement under the warranty. As mentioned earlier, this means that the tires must be at or very close to the 2/32" remaining tread depth, which is the minimum legal requirement in most states and recognized by tire manufacturers as the point when tires are worn out.



The problem that arises as a tire's hydroplaning resistance, wet traction, and snow traction decrease as it wears down to this level. This dilemma leaves consumers choosing between treadwear warranty or traction. If winter or rainy seasons are approaching, the slight savings gained by maximizing the treadwear warranty may not compensate for the increased risk of accident in adverse weather conditions.