

1. TIRES101. UNDERSTANDING YOUR TIRE, what do those numbers and codes mean

Note: always consult your local dealer before purchasing any tires or wheels and with any questions. this unofficial information should not be used for tire, wheel purchase decisions or vehicle speed or weight capability
subject to change and correction without notice

SIDEWALL

How to read the sidewall and decipher a tire's code

example: P225-60R16 97H M+S (2005 Outback 2.5i)

P passenger car tire LT: light truck tire	225 width in millimeters	60 ratio of height to width (aspect ratio)	R radial tire B: belted ply	16 size of wheel (16 inch wheel)	97H M+S 97: load index H: speed symbol M+S= mud and snow Note- not required on tire
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SERIAL NUMBER

DOT Serial Number System on all tires

how to read the serial number: example DOT OB XO C60 1004 off a 2005 Outback 2.5i

DOT US Dept of Transportation	OB mfr and plant code	XO tire size and code	C60 opt symbols, vary by mfr	1004 week/year, ie 10th week/2004	
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UTQGS: Uniform Tire Quality Grading System

Treadwear, Traction, Temperature Grades

A US govt system helps you compare tires for tread wear life, traction (stopping), and heat.

Of course many other factors impact tire performance including road and weather conditions, inflation pressure, vehicle weight etc as well as driving skills.

Treadwear Grade Measures the tread wear life and helps compare tires made by a same company. The higher the number the longer a tire should wear. A tire with a Tread Wear Grade of 200 should last twice as long as one with 100, 400 should last 2x as long as one with 200 etc, but different manufacturers might use different base numbers.

Traction Grade Measures the stopping ability of a tire. The higher letter (AA) should stop better than a lower letter (A). The grades are, better to lower AA, A, B, C.

Temperature Grade A, B, C. A tire's ability to perform in hot conditions such as the high temperatures caused by driving a long distance in hot weather. This can lead to blowouts and tread separation. From highest to lowest, a tire's resistance to heat is graded as "A", "B", or "C".

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How to Read a tire Speed Rating Symbol				
code: rating- speed in mph (speed in km/h)				
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B- 31mph (50kmh)	G- 56 (90)	P- 93mph (150mh)	U-124mph (200kmh)	
C- 37mph (60kmh)	H - 130mph	J- 62 (90)	Q- 99 (160)	
D- 40mph (65)	K- 68 (110)	R-106 (170)	V- 150 (240)	
E- 43 (70)	L 75 (120)	S- 112 (180)	W- 169 (270)	
F- 50 (80)	M- 81 (130)	T- 118 (190)	Y 188 (300)	ZR over 150mph (over 240kmh)

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How to read a tire Load Index, how much weight will a tire carry

code: Load Index- weight in US pounds, lbs
 one pound = .4536 kg

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65- 639 lbs	83- 1074 lbs	100- 1764 lbs	117- 2833 lbs	134- 4674 lbs
66-661	84- 1102	101- 1819	118- 2910	135- 4806
67- 677	85- 1135	102- 1874	119- 2998	136- 4938
68- 694	86- 1168	103- 1929	120- 3086	137- 5071
70- 739	87- 1201	104- 1984	121- 3197	138- 5203
71- 761	88- 1235	105- 2030	122- 3307	139- 5357
72- 783	89- 1279	106- 2094	123- 3417	140- 5512
73- 805	90- 1323	107- 2149	124- 3527	141- 5766
74- 827	91- 1356	108- 2205	125- 3638	142- 5842
75- 853	92- 1389	109- 2271	126- 3748	143- 6008
76- 882	93- 1433	110- 2337	127- 3858	144- 6173
77- 908	94- 1477	111- 2403	128- 3968	145- 6393
78- 937	95- 1521	112- 2469	129- 4079	146- 6614
79- 963	96- 1565	113- 2535	130- 4169	147- 6779
80- 992	97- 1609	114- 2601	131- 4299	148- 6944
81- 1019	98- 1653	115- 2679	132- 4409	149- 7165
82- 1047	99- 1709	116- 2756	133- 4541	150- 7385