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**This Earth Day ensure your tires are properly inflated**

Under-inflated tires cause Canadian drivers to waste enough fuel each year to fill 257 Olympic size swimming pools. When it comes to fighting climate change and pollution caused by unnecessary fuel consumption this Earth Day, there is no easier lifestyle change Canadians can make than spending a few minutes each month to ensure their tires are inflated to the vehicle manufacturers recommendation.

According to Natural resources Canada, under-inflated tires cause drivers to burn an extra 643 million litres of fuel each year in Canada. That is enough fuel to fill 257 Olympic size swimming pools, and that wasted fuel releases an additional one million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

"One of the goals of Earth Day is to give Canadians the practical knowledge and tools they need to lessen their impact on the environment," says Glenn Maidment, President of the Rubber Association of Canada (RAC), which represents Canada's tire makers. "Monthly tire pressure measurements are among the easiest and most effective ways people can protect the environment. All that is required is a reliable tire gauge, a bit of technical knowledge and the monthly investment of five minutes each month to take the measurements and, if necessary, adjust tire pressures."

Drivers across Canada can make a significant – and immediate – contribution to the environment by committing to measure and, if necessary, adjust their tire pressure monthly as part of this year's Earth Day celebrations.

A tire that is under-inflated does not roll as smoothly or as easily as it was intended by the tire maker who built it. This diminishes fuel efficiency because increased rolling resistance causes the vehicle to burn more fuel.

RAC research shows that seven-in-ten vehicles on Canada's roadways are rolling on at least one tire that is over or under-inflated. Most disturbingly, nearly a quarter of those vehicles have at least one tire that is seriously under-inflated by 20 per cent or more.

Beyond reducing harmful vehicle emissions, monthly tire pressure measurements also save the average Canadian motorist about two weeks worth of fuel each year.

Here is the monthly four-step approach to proper tire inflation recommended by tire makers.

- Find the recommended inflation pressure for your tires. It will be listed in your owner's manual and on the vehicle placard most commonly located on the inside post of one of the doors, in the glove compartment or on the fuel door.
- Remember to only measure pressure when your tires are cold. If you have been driving more than two kilometres, wait three hours before measuring tire pressure.
- Use only a reliable tire gauge. Remove the cap from the valve stem, press the tire gauge onto the valve and take the pressure reading. Never rely on a visual inspection.
- If necessary, add or bleed air until the recommended air pressure is achieved. If you overfill the tire, release air by pushing on the metal stem in the centre of the valve, then re-measure the pressure.

Canadians are also reminded that May 17 to 23, 2010, is National Be Tire Week, during which the tire industry, including retailers, distributors and manufacturers, will again be reminding motorists about the environmental, safety and fuel economy benefits of proper tire inflation and maintenance.

"More drivers than ever before understand the importance of proper tire inflation, but there is much more to be done," says Maidment. "We are urging drivers across Canada to join with us this Earth Day by pledging to properly inflate their tires, and we also inviting Canadians from all walks of life to promote the importance of proper tire inflation within their personal circle. Together, we can significantly improve air quality."

Canadians can learn more about the environmental benefits of proper tire inflation and maintenance by visiting [www.betiresmart.ca](http://www.betiresmart.ca).

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