

TIRE/VEHICLE MAINTENANCE ITEMS WHICH MAY CAUSE ABNORMAL TIRE WEAR

Improper or inadequate vehicle maintenance can cause tires to wear abnormally. All of the following maintenance items can be adjusted or fixed.

Improper Tire Inflation

Use the pressures specified on the vehicle tire information placard or certification label for optimum service. Underinflation or overinflation will cause uneven treadwear patterns. The vehicle manufacturer selects the tire pressures listed on the vehicle's placard or certification label. These tire pressures are suitable for the intended use of that vehicle. Do not load the vehicle beyond the limits shown on the placard or certification label.

Underinflation is the most common cause of failures in any kind of tire and may result in severe cracking, component separation, or "blowout", with unexpected loss of vehicle control and accident. Underinflation increases sidewall flexing and rolling resistance, resulting in heat and internal damage to the tire.

Tire and Wheel Assembly Balance

If a tire and wheel assembly is out of balance, the pounding can cause uneven treadwear. (See Tire/Wheel Balance on page 31.)

An out-of-balance condition of a tire/wheel assembly causes vibration generally at highway speeds.

Vehicle Wheel Alignment

If the vehicle wheels are not properly aligned, tires will experience stresses as if they were constantly cornering. This can cause increased treadwear.

For any vehicle, four-wheel alignment can identify problems such as "dog tracking", when the rear tires do not follow in the paths of the front tires. This can result in abnormal treadwear.

Some vehicles may require front- and rear-wheel alignment. Four-wheel alignment equipment is needed to do this.

Wheels

Damaged wheels can cause a tire to scrub unevenly on the road. The damage to the wheel may not be visually obvious. A check of radial and lateral wheel run-outs will identify a possible problem.

Brakes

If not in good repair, brakes can grab unevenly, causing more stress on one tire. If brakes do not work smoothly, the pulsing could affect tire wear.

Shock Absorbers

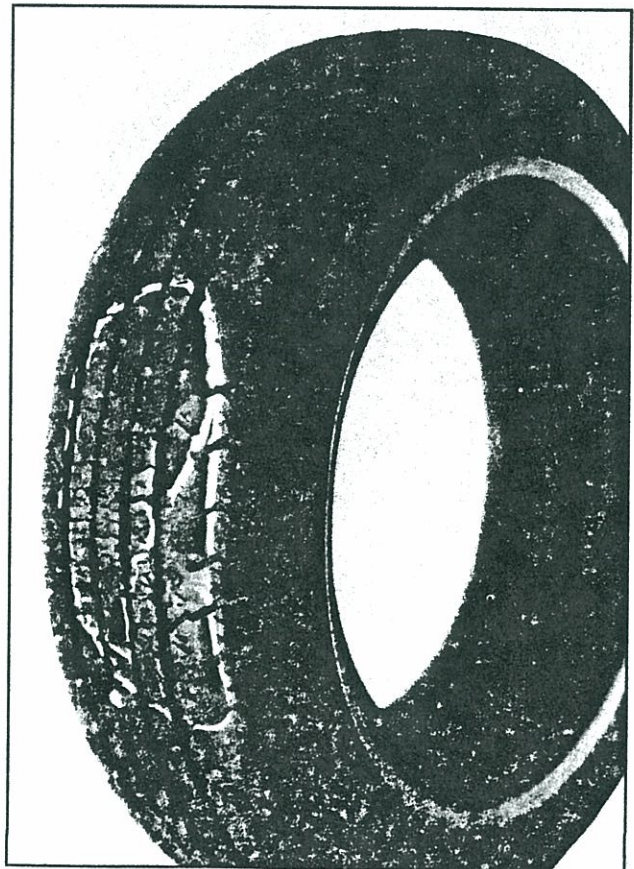
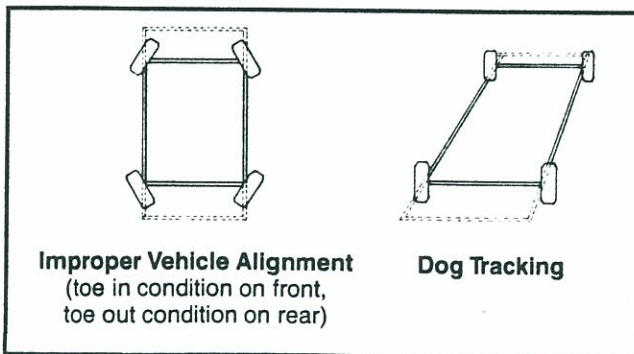
A worn shock will not damp out vibrations at highway speeds, leading to uneven wear.

Ball Joints

Worn ball joints become loose and can cause uneven wear.

Suspension and Steering Systems

Excessive wear and looseness anywhere in the suspension and steering systems can cause tire and wheel assemblies to move in ways in which they were not designed to move. In the extreme case, the vehicle is continually wandering on the road, and the driver is constantly having to steer the tires back and forth. This will cause excessive front tire wear and may cause abnormal tire wear.



Abnormal Treadwear