

TPMS

What it is and what it means to you...

Tire Pressure Monitoring System

TPMS is an electronic system that monitors the air pressure inside a tire in real time. It is currently on some vehicles and starting with 2008 models it will be standard on all vehicles. The system will alert the driver that the tire pressure is not inflated properly. Some vehicles use a five wheel system which includes the spare tire. Other systems may use the vehicle's antilock brake system to calculate tire pressure loss. The sensor is either connected to the valve stem or clamped inside on the rim of the tire. Each sensor acts as a continual monitor for the tire inflation and is based on temperature and wheel speed. When the inflation pressure falls below the safety level of your vehicle a signal lamp on your instrument panel will light up to let you know. This is one warning that you should never ignore and it cannot be disabled until the tire pressure has been adjusted properly.

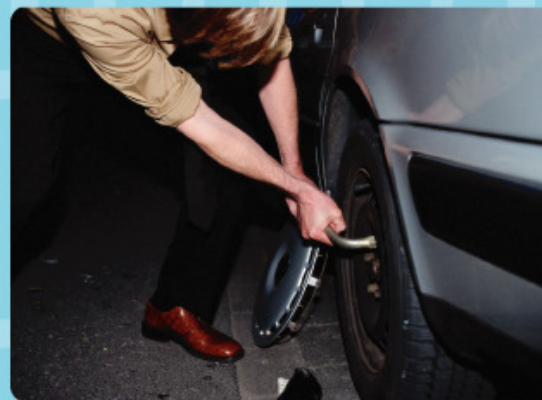


TPM was first introduced in 1986 on the Porsche 959 so it is not a new idea. Many other cars followed their example over the years. The gradual loss of air in tires is the primary cause of blowouts which in turn is the cause of many traffic accidents and deaths. In the 1990's when over 100 deaths were attributed to the Firestone Tire/Ford Explorer tire-tread separation the TREAD Act (Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation) came into being. This act affects all light vehicles sold after September 2007.



- The United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 533 highway deaths each year are caused by tire defects.
- The French Securite Routiere (Road Safety) estimates that 9% of all fatal road accidents are due to under-inflation of tires.
- The German DEKRA estimates that 41% of road accidents with physical injuries are due to tire problems.

Tire replacement and rotation on many common vehicles requires special equipment and a highly trained technician to maintain these systems. We use only the latest equipment and technology, and are properly trained to maintain the integrity and safety of these systems. Note: If your vehicle is equipped with TPMS DO NOT!!! move or drive on the flat tire. The sensor will be damaged and need to be replaced. These sensors are very expensive, typically ranging \$100 to \$200 per wheel assembly including installation. Please call us with any questions you may have.



Tires typically lose one psi of pressure per month. Even with government mandated monitoring systems it is still advisable to check your tires each month. The alert doesn't come into effect until the tire is at 25% low on pressure. At 15% low pressure, your gas mileage drops which costs you more money and also hurts the environment. The USA began its TPMS legislation for safety-related reasons but it also is a help in reducing harmful emissions. The European Union and Far East legislators are excited about this benefit and are considering making it mandatory as well.