

# INDUSTRY RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

## *Proper Tire Storage*

### **ISSUE:**

Tires are composed of various materials, including rubber, that have performance properties essential to the proper functioning of the tire. If tires are not stored properly, not only will there be deterioration in appearance, there may be a loss of performance and compound integrity. Tires are designed and built to provide many thousands of miles of excellent service but must be maintained properly. Even though the rubber used to make tires is formulated to resist the effects of sunlight, ozone and water, the life of a tire can be extended if exposure to these elements is minimized during storage. Proper storage ensures that the tires appearance and performance are maintained for maximizing the tires service life. Please note that some local ordinances may require sprinklers or have specific requirements around racking.

### **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:**

- Store tires in a clean, cool, dry, dark area away from direct sunlight. The area should be well ventilated, but with a minimum of circulating air.
- The storage area must be kept clean and any oil, grease or water that may contaminate the tire and all nails, stones, wood chips or any other object that may damage the tire must be removed.
- Tires should be stored on a pallet or storage rack to minimize exposure to moisture or damage. Damaged pallets or storage racks should not be used.
- Store tires away from electric motors, battery chargers, electric welding equipment, electric generators and similar equipment. Such equipment creates ozone which has a deteriorating effect on rubber.
- Storing tires upright in tire racks prevents distortion or disfiguration and will make mounting easier. If it is necessary to store horizontal position, stack the tires in such a manner so that the bottom tire will maintain its shape.
- Whitewall and raised white letter tires that are not wrapped should be stored with white sidewalls facing each other to avoid staining the white through contact with the black rubber of the other tires.

- Tires stored while mounted on rims should be inflated to 50% of the normal pressure.
- Tires that have been in storage the longest should be used first.
- If tires should be damaged by flood or fire, contact your manufacturer to perform an assessment as to whether they can be used or must be recycled.

### **Outdoor Storage:**

- Tires stored outdoors should be raised off the ground and an opaque, waterproof covering with vent openings should be used to prevent moisture build up.

It is important to note that some States do not allow outdoor storage.

- Long term storage or storage of seasonal vehicles such as RV's, boat trailers, or show cars require special preparation.
  1. The vehicle should be raised on blocks to remove the load from the tires and the vehicle placard inflation pressure should be maintained.
  2. If the vehicle cannot be put on blocks, the following is required:
    - Tire pressure should be increased 25% from the inflation required for the loaded vehicle (ensure that the rim manufacturers inflation capacity is not exceeded)
    - Unload the vehicle so that the minimum weight is placed on the tires.
    - The storage surface must be firm, clean, well-drained and reasonably level. Do not store tires in contact with black asphalt or other heat absorbent surfaces and do not expose the tires to highly reflective surfaces such as sand or snow.
    - The vehicle should be moved at least every three months to prevent flat spotting and ozone cracking at the tire sidewall flex point.
  3. Tires on vehicles stored outdoors should be protected by opaque covers to prevent damage from sunlight.
  4. Adjust inflation to the required pressure before the vehicle is returned to service.

**WHEN REFERENCING THIS RECOMMENDATION, BE SURE TO FOLLOW ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THIS SUBJECT.**