



**Chamberlayne Farms
Sunoco & Auto Center**
Complete Auto Service
(804)-261-4017

➔ INSPECTION STATION ➔

Welcome to the first newsletter. As time progresses this format will allow us to keep you informed as to site updates, coupon changes as well as a few helpful hints to not only maintain your vehicle but to help you understand a few of the vital components. This installment will touch upon tires. Tires aren't just treads we replace once every few years. They help us maneuver safely and avoid accidents; and the grip and security they provide is not to be taken lightly.

And according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the federal agency that oversees vehicle safety and tire safety, many of these crashes can be avoided simply by understanding tire maintenance, understanding tire labels, keeping track of the age of your tires, and monitoring recalls.

Starting with that, and distilling what we see as some very important points from a new "TireWise" campaign from NHTSA, take a look at five more potentially life-saving tips to keep in mind.

1. Balance, align, rotate.

Consult with your owner's manual, and if it advises tire rotation, have it done at the recommended interval. That won't produce any benefits you can immediately feel, but it will assure that your tires, as well as some driveline components, will last longer. And if you notice steering-wheel pulsation, or if your vehicle is pulling to the side when on a straight, mostly level road, take it in to your mechanic, or to a wheel and alignment expert.

2. Tires don't just wear; they age.

Most tires age to a point at which, at six to ten years, you can have 'safe' tread left yet the compound is no longer safe. Don't wait for a blowout or tread separation before you decide to replace the tires on that older vehicle that you only take out once in a while. And yes, spares age, too.

3. Potholes can knock your pressure down.

This isn't one to take lightly either. After an unusually long, brutal winter for much of the U.S., and more snowfall than usual, many cities are in the midst of a pothole crisis. Even if there's no vibration after an impact and the tire and wheel look intact, the jarring impact of a pothole can temporarily break the seal of a tire to the wheel, causing a sudden loss of some but not all of the pressure—in amounts that might not be enough to set off tire-pressure sensors. If hitting severe potholes is a daily occurrence, remember to check your tires—and tire pressure—as often as you can.



4. Study your tread.

While damaged or improperly inflated tires that go too long unchecked can lead to suspension, steering, or driveline issues, the opposite can be the case, too, and serious safety issues with your own vehicle can show their first signs through your tires. Beyond the standard treadwear checks, like "the penny test," look for fraying, scalloping, cupping, or any kind of uneven wear and take it as a life-saving warning sign.

5. Buy the right tire for your needs in the first place.

Understand that the safest tires might not always be the most fuel-efficient or the longest-lasting—and that specialty tires out of their element can be dangerous. For instance, the soft, summer-performance tires that arrive on some top-performance models are ill-suited for cold, wet roads. Likewise, using special winter tires year round are going to cost you some safety (and a lot of tread wear) if you try to use them in hot weather.

Buying your tires from an experienced professional is your best bet, of course; but learning about all the ways that tires are rated and labeling is a great start before you head there.

We at Chamberlayne Farms Sunoco and Auto Center are proud to bring you this information and will gladly assist you in tire replacement, recommendations and monitoring. Striving to improve our service and convenience to you is just one of our goals. Providing quality service at affordable prices is more than just a saying, it's the way we do business here in the neighborhood. If there are any questions or comments please don't hesitate to ask either by phone 261-4017 in person at 201 Wilkinson Rd. or via email. Again we thank you for this opportunity to help you in any way we can.

Sincerely,
Frank Montalbano and all of the CFSunoco family