



How Important is Rotation and Balancing your tires?

Tire rotation involves moving tires from one position on a vehicle to another. A typical tire rotation would move the front tires to the rear, and the tires at the rear of the vehicle to the front.

Often in this procedure, one set of tires also changes sides. For example, the left and right rear tires would change sides when moved to the front of the vehicle, while the front tires would stay on their respective sides when moved to the rear.

There are, however, numerous rotation patterns. You should follow the pattern outlined in your owner's manual.

Typically, tire rotation is called for every 5,000 to 7,500 miles, though there are exceptions.

Again, the owner's manual will spell out what should be done for your vehicle.

Tire rotation is undertaken to ensure that the tires wear evenly. This can extend tire life and save you money.

Even tire wear is also important for balanced handling. For example, failure to rotate tires on a front-wheel-drive vehicle will eventually result in the front tires having significantly less tread than the rear tires. In an emergency, this could make the vehicle more difficult to control, especially if the road is wet.

Some cars with no suspension or alignment problems may also inflict unusual wear patterns on tires that are not rotated, shortening their life. Tread cupping, which can cause high noise levels and vibration, is one such unusual wear pattern that can be eliminated by rotating the tires.

There is one final reason for rotating the tires on a regular schedule: The tire maker may require it to keep its warranty in force.

The goal of tire balance is to distribute weight equally around the entire circumference of the tire. Wheels that are out-of-balance can cause uncomfortable vibrations while driving. It also results in premature wear of suspension and steering components, rotating parts, and tires.

When refitting any tire to a wheel, Continental recommends that the tire is correctly rebalanced to help eliminate vibration and avoid premature wear caused by an imbalance in the rotating wheel and tire assembly.

As part of routine vehicle maintenance, drivers should seek to balance the tires on their vehicle after every 5,000-10,000km traveled, or after 1-2 years (whichever comes first).