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Wheels & Tyres Customer Guidance

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Introduction

Tyres are an essential part of the safe use of your caravan and it is important that they do what they are intended to do - carry the load and grip the road - as well as helping bring the caravan to a safe stop.

It is critical that you undertake the following steps before EVERY journey (no matter how short) to help ensure your ongoing safety:

- ✓ Check the security of the wheel bolts* no more than 30 miles following a service/tyre change etc.
- ✓ Check the tyre pressure in each tyre including the spare - always do this when the tyres are cold and adjust as per manufacturer specified operational pressure if required.
- ✓ Check the tyres visually for signs of ageing and damage, e.g., cracks, cuts, bulges etc.

A torque wrench should be used to confirm the bolt tightness, this must be calibrated.



General wheel (Rim) advice

- ✓ Inspect wheels for signs of damage
- ✓ Check spare wheel is the same size and has the same bolt pattern for your caravan
- ✓ Check there are suitable wheel bolts for the spare if it is a different type to the road wheels
- ✓ Ensure wheel bolts are free from dirt and corrosion
- ✓ Always check your wheel bolts before any journey using a torque wrench.
- ✓ If necessary, tighten the wheel bolts to the torque and in the sequence as recommend by the caravan manufacturer in the caravan handbook.

Underinflation

Caravan tyres, especially single axle ones, may require a much higher pressure compared to car tyres. Not inflating tyres enough is the most common reason for failure so always make sure you inflate tyre to the correct pressure.

General tyre advice

- ✓ Never mix types of tyres of different size and/or load index.
- ✓ Always check the spare tyre is the same size, speed rating and load index as those fitted to the axle(s).
- ✓ Check all tyres for visible signs of wear and excessive / uneven tread wear before every journey.
- ✓ Check tread depth regularly. Remember the legal minimum tread depth is 1.6mm across the central $\frac{3}{4}$ of the breadth of the tyre around the entire circumference. Tyre Industry advice suggests tyres should be replaced after 3mm of tread is remaining
- ✓ Check tyre pressure is correct before every journey.
- ✓ If your tyres need a high inflation pressure (50psi or more), you should check regularly for signs of deterioration from three years old.
- ✓ Check the tyre valves for deterioration and make sure the dust cap is fitted.
- ✓ When tyres are not in use then protect the tyres from exposure to sunlight to limit UV degradation / cracking and rotate the tyres if left under load for prolonged periods of time.

When to replace your tyres

Caravans generally do a low annual mileage which may not exceed 2,000 miles a year, so it would take many years of use to wear out the tread.

However, factors may make them deteriorate more rapidly than expected, even with careful use.

- ✓ Tyres age and deteriorate due to exposure to sunlight and atmosphere, even if not used.
- ✓ Caravan tyres can suffer fatigue due to the repetitive small impacts they suffer in everyday use.
- ✓ Being stored for long periods of the year without use can put undue strain on one part of the tyre.
- ✓ Tyres may corrode from the inside, the steel belts though coated will start to rust once moisture from the road reaches them through small holes caused by debris.

It should go without saying that tyres which are damaged or worn to the legal minimum tread depth must be replaced immediately. Caravan tyres need regular replacement, irrespective of their visual appearance. The caravan industry recommends that you replace your caravan tyres after five years use or no later than seven years old (see date code of manufacture).



Understanding your tyres



Tyre size

Tyre Size specifies the width of the tyre in mm (185), then type (R = Radial and the diameter of the road wheel in inches (14). There may be a second letter after the type which is a C (as shown here) this denotes it is a commercial tyre.

Note. If the profile of the tyre is lower than 80 it would normally be shown also.

Load index

The load index specifies the maximum weight a tyre can carry the higher the number the greater the mass.

Index	Max mass KG	Index	Max mass KG
82	475	101	825
85	515	102	850
86	530	103	875
88	560	104	900
90	600	105	925
91	615	106	950
92	630	107	975
93	650	108	1000
94	670	109	1030
95	690	110	1060
96	710	111	1090
97	730	112	1120
98	750	113	1050
99	775	114	1180
100	800	115	1215

Speed symbol

The speed symbol defines the maximum speed the tyre can be used up to.

Speed Symbol	Km/H	MPH
H	210	130
K	110	68
L	120	75
M	130	81
N	140	87
R	170	106
T	190	118

Date code of manufacture

This is the week and year of manufacture (1021) is stating the tyre was manufactured in the 10th week of 2021



Pressure requirements

This will state the maximum pressure the tyre should be inflated to, the correct tyre pressure for your tyre at the caravan MTPLM will also be stated on the caravan's weight plate which is normally positioned closed to the entrance door.

Note

The tyre pressures stated on the caravan plate may be less than the maximum pressure stated on the tyre, but tyres should never be inflated above the maximum stated on the tyre. Tyres should be inflated to the pressure stated on the caravan weight plate.

Wheel cleaning

- ✓ Use soap and water or an approved alloy wheel cleaning product (ideally PH neutral)
- ✓ Use a pressure washer to remove and loose dirt from the wheel avoid pressure washing the tyre itself.
- ✓ Wear protective gloves
- ✓ Apply the cleaning product as directed on the product instructions
- ✓ Leave for the time specified by the cleaning product
- ✓ Rinse wheels thoroughly with clean water to ensure no cleaning product is left on the wheel or wheel bolts.

Motor movers

Motor movers where fitted **must** always be disengaged after use and never left engaged when the caravan is in storage.

Where can I find an AWS workshop?

With over 430 workshops to choose from it's easy to find one that's convenient for you. Simply use our handy online database that allows you to search by region; county; distance from your postcode and filter according to type of leisure vehicle or preference for fixed or mobile workshop.

www.approvedworkshops.co.uk/search

Or you can use the AWS free App which allows you to search for your nearest workshop to your current location (especially useful when you are touring).

What can I expect from an AWS workshop?

Aside from the technician requirements which are assessed annually by a team of independent assessors, each AWS workshop abides by a strict Code of Practice meaning you can expect excellent standards of competency. All workshops under the AWS scheme provide the following:

- ✓ A transparent pricing menu specifying labour rates
- ✓ Free quotes for additional servicing or repair work over £150
- ✓ An estimated time for completion and collection
- ✓ A guarantee not to undertake any work without express permission and agreement upfront
- ✓ No additional work to be conducted without seeking and receiving further authority
- ✓ The use of genuine spare parts wherever possible
- ✓ Every effort to carry out all work to the highest standards of care, skill and judgement
- ✓ A complete check-list of all work that has been conducted
- ✓ Notification in writing of any faults that cannot be rectified and an honest assessment of the urgency of further repairs

In short, the AWS seal of approval means you can expect a superior level of customer service, technical workmanship and professional judgement.

AWS is backed by the industry leaders:

You have the reassurance that the Approved Workshop Scheme was designed in consultation and continues to operate with the backing of the UK's 3 biggest leisure vehicle industry organisations:



The NCC

The trade association representing the UK leisure vehicle industry.
www.thencc.org.uk • Tel: 01252 318251



The Caravan and Motorhome Club

Europe's premier touring organisation, representing the interests of a million caravanners, motor caravanners and trailer tenters.
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The Camping and Caravanning Club

The world's first and oldest club for all types of camping, inspiring people around the UK to enjoy the great outdoors.
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Where do I go next?

For more information on why you should service your touring caravan or motorhome and how the AWS scheme delivers a better servicing option then visit the FAQ section the AWS website.

www.approvedworkshops.co.uk/faq

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