

# Coachcraft

BY MacDONALD

YOUR COACH'S TIRES

## What is the tire's function?

The tire designed for your RV is a very technical and precisely engineered product. To obtain the maximum use and best service out of your tires it is helpful to understand the function of a tire. A tire is a "container" that holds air. It is the combination of air and tire that supports the vehicle and its contents. In addition, since the tire is the only contact that the vehicle has with the road surface, it must provide other functions such as traction for moving, stopping and steering as well as providing a cushion for the vehicle.

## The importance of tire pressure

The most important factor in maximizing the life of your tires is maintaining proper inflation. Driving on a tire that does not have the correct inflation pressure for the load of the vehicle is dangerous and may cause premature wear, tire damage, and/or loss of control of the vehicle. A tire that is under inflated will build up excessive heat that may go beyond the prescribed limits of endurance of the rubber and the radial cords. This could result in sudden tire failure. A tire that is under inflated will also cause poor vehicle handling, rapid and/or irregular tire wear, and an increase in rolling resistance which results in a decrease in its fuel economy. Over inflation will reduce the tire's footprint or contact patch with the road, thus reducing the traction, braking capacity, and handling of the vehicle. A tire that is over inflated for the load that it is carrying will also contribute to a harsh ride, uneven tire wear, and will be more susceptible to impact damage. Maintaining correct tire inflation pressure for each loaded wheel position on your vehicle is of the



DOT: Tire meets DOT safety standards. 4202: Week & year tire was made - 42nd week of the year 2002

MK: DOT's tire plant code R7: Tire size code FOWR: Manufacturer symbol identifying tire brand

utmost importance and must be a part of regular vehicle maintenance.

## How much air should I carry in my tires?

Federal law requires that the tire's maximum load rating be molded into the sidewall of the tire. If you look on your tire's sidewall you'll see the maximum load allowed for the size tire and load rating, and the minimum cold air inflation pressure needed to carry that stated maximum load. Utilizing less air pressure means a lesser load can be carried by the tire. The chart at the end of this brochure shows weights that can be supported by various air pressures.

Tire Size	Single (S) Dual (D)	Inflation Pressure - PSI																
		35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	
LT215/75R16	S	1345	1475	1600	1765(C)	1845	1960	2095(D)										
	D	1225	1340	1455	1610(C)	1680	1785	1900(D)										
LT235/75R16	S	1530	1680	1825	1985(C)	2100	2230	2395(D)										
	D	1390	1530	1660	1820(C)	1910	2030	2150(D)										
LT225/75R16	S	1500	1650	1790	1940(C)	2060	2190	2335(D)	2440	2560	2680(E)							
	D	1365	1500	1630	1785(C)	1875	1995	2150(D)	2200	2330	2470(E)							
LT245/75R16	S	1700	1865	2030	2205(C)	2335	2480	2623(D)	2760	2900	3042(E)							
	D	1545	1695	1845	2006(C)	2125	2255	2381(D)	2515	2640	2778(E)							
LT215/65R16	S	1495	1640	1785	1940(C)	2050	2180	2335(D)	2430	2530	2640(E)							
	D	1360	1480	1625	1785(C)	1865	1985	2150(D)	2210	2320	2470(E)							
LT225/65R16	S	1700	1870	2030	2205	2335	2485	2623(D)	2765	2905	3042(E)	3170	3300	3415	3530	3675	3780(F)	
	D	1545	1700	1845	2006	2125	2250	2381(D)	2515	2645	2778(E)	2885	3005	3085	3200	3345	3415(F)	

The amount of air pressure you need to use depends on the weight of your fully loaded vehicle. So, you cannot determine your correct air pressure unless you know your vehicle's actual weights.

## Dangers of overloading

What are the risks of driving an overloaded RV? In addition to possible problems with tires, wheels, and springs, there can be problems of brake failure, drive train failure, wheel bearing failure, etc. Moreover, an overloaded RV uses more fuel, is harder to handle, and can lead to driver fatigue. If any component should fail, it could result in vehicle damage and/or loss of vehicle control. In addition to the above dangers, there are some states that require certain motor homes and RVs to utilize the Highway Patrol's weight scales to check for overloaded axle weights. Citations can be issued to violators.

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