

# DIRT BIKE TIRE SAFETY INFO

## SELECTING NEW TIRES

When selecting new tires, make sure they meet the requirements of your motorcycle and its expected usage. Always refer to the owner's manual and tire manufacturer's website for recommended tire size, construction, performance, and suggested air pressure.

## CHECKING TIRE PRESSURE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIRE MAINTENANCE FUNCTION YOU CAN PERFORM

Check cold tire pressure frequently with a good-quality gauge that holds a reading - and always before extended trips. Inspect tires frequently for damage, and always heed warning signs such as vibration, handling instability, rubbing, or tire noise that occurs during the operation of your motorcycle.

## MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of the motorcycle generally, and of wheels/tires in particular, is suggested because tire mileage and performance are adversely affected by a poorly maintained vehicle. Refer to the owner's manual for recommended suspension settings. Improperly maintained components and incorrect or unbalanced front fork pressures will affect stability. Low suspension pressure will generate excessive tire stresses.

## TIRE STORAGE PRECAUTIONS

The treatment that tires receive during extended periods of inactivity may directly affect their mileage and performance.

- **Temperature:** Try to avoid frequent and varied extremes of temperatures during storage. Do not keep tires next to radiators or sources of heat. Tires subjected to these conditions will age more quickly than those stored in a cool, constant environment.
- **Sunlight:** Tires stored in direct sunlight for long periods of time will harden and age more quickly than those stored in a cool, constant environment.
- **Ozone:** Do not store tires where electric motors are present. The high concentration of ozone will accelerate tire aging.
- **Oil and gasoline:** Prolonged contact with oil or gasoline causes contamination of the rubber compound, making the tire unsuitable for use. Wipe off any oil or gasoline immediately with a clean rag. Do not use any tire that has been exposed to oil, gasoline, corrosives, or non-rubber compatible liquids.

## TIRE MOUNTING GUIDELINES

Only specially trained persons should mount tires. Improper mounting can cause tire explosion and serious injury. Never exceed the tire manufacturer's recommended maximum pressure when seating any tire.

## SAFETY TIPS:

Refer to your machine's documentation for proper maintenance. Always give tires a gentle "run-in" period of 100 miles to get the feel of new tires. This means they should not be subjected to maximum power, abrupt lean-over, hard cornering, etc. Always match the front and rear tires for optimal handling, safety and performance. Mixing radials, or mixing radials with bias or belted-bias tires, may adversely affect handling and stability.

- **Air pressure:** Always maintain the recommended tire pressure for the type of motorcycle that is being ridden; check the owner's manual. Under inflated tires may cause wheel damage when ridden on rocky, rough terrain and allow the motorcycle to squirm or wander on smooth, hard terrain. Over inflation may damage the tires and cause an unnecessarily harsh ride. To accurately measure tire pressure, use a standard tire pressure gauge.
- **Condition:** Check for cuts and gouges that may cause air leakage. Also check the tires for missing knobs and excessively worn tread.
- **Wheels:** To avoid loss of control or injury, make sure axle nuts are tight and secured. Grasp each tire at the front and rear and try to rock it on its axle to detect worn-out bearings or loose nuts. There should be no free play or slip as you rock the wheel. Inspect wheels for broken or loose spokes and for cracks on the hub or rim.

## DIRT BIKE TIRE MEASUREMENTS

Motorcycle tires are commonly measured in millimeters by Width / Aspect Ratio x Rim Diameter (inches)



EXAMPLE:

WIDTH / ASPECT RATIO x RIM DIAMETER

110/90x19

## TERM DEFINITIONS:

**Aspect Ratio:** The aspect ratio is the height of the sidewall in relation to the width of the tread. For example, on the tire size above, the aspect ratio is 90% of the tread width (the first number in the tire size), creating a 99 millimeter sidewall height.

## TIRE CONSTRUCTION

**Bias:** Bias tires typically have the ply cords that extend diagonally from bead to bead at a range of 30 to 60-degree angles from the centerline. Each successive ply is laid at an opposing angle, forming a criss-cross pattern.

**Advantages:** The design allows the entire tire body to flex easily, giving a comfortable ride on rough surfaces.



## DIRT BIKE TIRE CONVERSION CHARTS

METRIC		INCHES
70/100x17	>	2.75x17
80/100x21	>	3.00x21
90/100x14	>	4.10x14
90/100x16	>	4.10x16
100/100x18	>	4.10x18
110/100x18	>	4.50x18
120/100x18	>	5.10x18
130/80x18	>	5.30x18
140/80x18	>	5.60x18
100/90x19	>	4.10x19
110/90x19	>	4.50x19
120/90x19	>	5.10x19

## SIDEWALL TREATMENT

Use a mild soap solution to clean sidewalls, white striping or lettering. Rinse off with plain water. Never apply any other material, cleaners or dressings to enhance sidewall appearance. These may degrade the rubber and remove inherent ozone-cracking/weather-checking resistance.

## SIGNS THAT YOU COULD NEED NEW DIRT BIKE TIRES

The primary thing to look at with tires is the tread. Is it worn too short? Are the knobs rounded? Are they showing other signs of wear (like cracks)? If so, it might be time for new tires. Worn/unworn tire combinations and worn tires used in wet conditions can result in deteriorated handling.

## WARNING

The charts and info on this page do not imply interchangeability. Consult your machine's manual to determine correct replacements, clearances, compatibility and stability, load-bearing capacity, speed rating, radial vs. non-radial recommendations and front-to-rear tire matching. **Incorrect selection can result in tire failure or loss of control with serious injury or death.**

FOR MORE TIRE INFORMATION VISIT: [www.rockymountainatvmc.com/Tire-Information](http://www.rockymountainatvmc.com/Tire-Information)