

## WHEN TO REPLACE TIRES

### Monitoring:

Spend \$5 on one of these...



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[Hawg Link Tread Depth Gauge](#)

New (stock) Dunlop 404 tires have a tread depth of 9/32 rear and 5/32 front. Find the depth of other new tread by going to the manufacturer's website.

When your tread measures 2/32 you should start seriously thinking about replacement and definitely do so by 1/32. That last 1/32 can come quickly in the case of a rear and more slowly for the front. It's always a good idea to make a note of your mileage when you change tires so you get a feel for how much tread you burn off per every couple thousand miles. Generally you should go through two rears for every front.

One of the biggest enemies of tires is lack of monitoring. Even a couple pounds of under inflation can speed up tire wear. Get in the habit of checking your tires for damage and inflation regularly, under the same conditions. That means every week or two not just a couple times a season. A lot of people don't realize a tire can lose air just sitting over the winter and will start riding in the spring before checking...uh oh!

### Tread wear indicators (Wear Bars):

All tires have a tread wear indicator molded into the tire tread. It usually takes the form of a tiny bar, spaced at intervals around the circumference of the tread. Normally the best place to find it is in the middle groove, running across the groove from one raised portion to the other. They are not easy to find until the tread is worn down to about 2/32".

You can easily determine where these indicators are by looking at the tire sidewall and locating a small triangle, arrow or sometimes the letters TWI (Tire Wear Indicator). The bar will be located in the tread directly opposite this sidewall imprint. The following pictures show where to find the imprint and wear bars.



Sidewall tread wear indicator



**Wear bar in relation to sidewall tread wear indicator**



**Wear bar in centre groove with a tread depth of 2/32" or less**