

Tire type (P)

Tire type defines the proper use of the tire. For example, the “P” on the tire shown here means that this is a passenger car tire. If the tire had an “LT” designation, the tire would be for a light truck.

Tire width (215)

The number beside the tire type is the width of the tire measured in millimetres from sidewall to sidewall. This tire width is 215 millimetres.

Aspect ratio (65)

Aspect Ratio is the ratio of the height of the tire’s sidewall to its width represented as a percent. In our example, 65 means the height is equal to 65% of the tire’s width.

Tires with a lower aspect ratio take less time to transfer energy from the steering mechanisms to the wheels and tread. So a lower aspect ratio makes the car react faster to your controls. Aspect ratio also affects tread. The lower the ratio, the wider the tread contacting the ground and the better traction (grip) you’ll have when turning.

Construction (R)

Construction tells you how the layers of the tire were put together. The “R” stands for Radial, which means the layers run radially across the tire. A “B” stands for bias construction, which means the layers run diagonally.

Most passenger and light truck vehicles will have an R rating. Radials deliver longer tread life, less fuel consumption, improved ride and better handling on the road.

Diameter of wheel in inches (15)

Indicates the wheel diameter in inches. The diameter of this wheel is 15 inches.

Load index (96)

The load index refers to the load-carrying capacity of a tire, or how much weight a tire can support. For example, if a tire has a load index of 96, it can support 1,566 pounds (from below chart) at maximum air pressure.

Load Index	Load (lbs)	Load Index	Load (lbs)	Load Index	Load (lbs)
0	99	21	182	42	331
1	102	22	187	43	342
2	105	23	193	44	353
3	107	24	198	45	364
4	110	25	204	46	375
5	114	26	209	47	386
6	117	27	215	48	397
7	120	28	220	49	408
8	123	29	227	50	419
9	128	30	234	51	430
10	132	31	240	52	441
11	136	32	247	53	452
12	139	33	254	54	467
13	143	34	260	55	481
14	148	35	267	56	494
15	152	36	276	57	507
16	157	37	282	58	520
17	161	38	291	59	536
18	165	39	300	60	551
19	171	40	309	61	584
20	176	41	320	62	600

Load Index	Load (lbs)	Load Index	Load (lbs)	Load Index	Load (lbs)
63	600	92	1389	121	3197
64	617	93	1433	122	3307
65	639	94	1477	123	3417
66	639	95	1521	124	3527
67	677	96	1565	125	3638
68	694	97	1609	126	3748
69	716	98	1653	127	3858
70	739	99	1709	128	3968
71	761	100	1764	129	4079
72	783	101	1819	130	4189
73	805	102	1874	131	4289
74	827	103	1929	132	4409
75	852	104	1984	133	4541
76	882	105	2039	134	4674
77	908	106	2094	135	4806
78	937	107	2149	136	4938
79	963	108	2205	137	5071
80	992	109	2271	138	5203
81	1019	110	2337	139	5357
82	1047	111	2403	140	5512
83	1074	112	2469	141	5677
84	1102	113	2535	142	5842
85	1135	114	2601	143	6008
86	1168	115	2679	144	6173
87	1201	116	2756	145	6393
88	1235	117	2833	146	6614
89	1279	118	2910	147	6779
90	1323	119	2998	148	6844
91	1356	120	3086	149	7165
				150	7385

Speed rating (H)

A tire receives its speed rating by meeting minimum government standards for reaching and sustaining a specified speed. What does that mean to you? Well, in general, a higher speed rating will result in better car handling.

Two important notes when considering speed rating:

- 1) We do not recommend downgrading the speed rating of your tires. This may result in poor handling and unpredictable steering. However, if you want better cornering response, there is no problem installing a higher speed rated tire on your vehicle. Please connect with one of our tire experts for help finding your best fit.

2) Never mix and match tires with different speed ratings on your vehicle; this will cause serious problems with the handling of your vehicle.

Below is a list of speed ratings along with the corresponding speeds they represent. Remember, the speeds are test speeds, not recommended speeds.

Q - Up to 100 mph
R - Up to 106 mph
S - Up to 112 mph
T - Up to 118 mph

U - Up to 124 mph
H - Up to 130 mph
V - Up to 149 mph
W - Up to 168 mph

Y - Up to 186 mph
z - 149 mph and over

Tire identification number (DOT MAL ABC036)

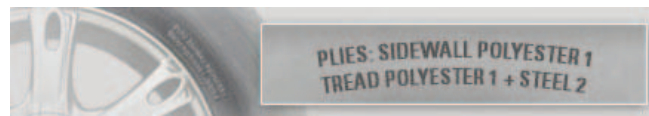
The manufacturer identification number tells you how old your tires are, and where they were made.

DOT means the tires have been certified by the Department of Transportation; the next code is the serial number. The first three letters identify the manufacturer's facility where the tires were made. Last three numbers indicate the month and year of manufacturing.

Tire construction (POLYESTER/STEEL)

Thought your tires were only made out of rubber? Think again. Modern tires use a combination of materials. The foundation of the tire is the plies (layers of nylon, polyester, fiberglass or steel) just beneath the tread that provides flexibility and strength.

Radial tires now rule the road and are constructed with steel or fabric carcass plies crossing the tread at approximately a 90° angle, and two or more belts circle the tire under the tread. The sidewalls flex while the tread remains rigid, accounting for the characteristic sidewall bulge of a radial. The tread runs flatter on the road with a better grip and superior handling and mileage.



Treadwear, traction and temperature grades (TREADWEAR 220 TRACTION A TEMPERATURE A)

Treadwear, traction and temperature determine the grade (durability) of a tire.

Treadwear measures the rate a tire will wear under certain conditions. The higher the number is, the better the tire (within brands). Why is this important? Tires need to be replaced when the tread has worn down. So the higher the treadwear, the longer the tire can last.

Traction measures the tire's ability to stop on wet asphalt and concrete. An "A" grade means the tire is good on both surfaces, "B" the tire is good on one surface and "C" the tire is poor on both. Temperature resistance shows how well a tire resists heat. Driving excessively fast, under inflating a tire or overloading your car with weight can make heat build up in a tire. High heat for long periods of time reduces the life of your tire. Like traction, temperature resistance is measured using grades (A,B, and C, A being the highest performance level).

Maximum cold inflation and maximum tire pressure (MAXIMUM PRESS 44 PSI)

This indicates the maximum operating inflation pressure of the tire. It does not indicate the manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, nor does it indicate the proper air pressure based on the vehicle the tire is mounted on.

Maximum tire load limit (MAX LOAD 1565 LBS)

This indicates the tire's maximum load-carrying capabilities when the tire is inflated to its maximum inflation pressure (which is shown on the sidewall).



The mountain and snowflake symbol represents winter tires. Below 7°C, summer and all season tires don't provide enough traction and are not designed to handle icy and snowy conditions. So the next time you're looking for winter tires, look for this symbol.

M&S or M+S (Mud and Snow)

M&S or M+S is the symbol for all season tires. These tires can be used in muddy and snowy conditions. Just remember that below 7°C, all season should be replaced with winter tires.

Knowing how to read your tires helps you better understand how to use and care for them. So before you get on the road, take a look at your tires. Check if they're right for the speed you'll be going, the load that you'll be carrying or even the weather conditions. And if you have any questions about your tires' codes or how to find a replacement tire or set, our Integra Tire team is always happy to help.