



# **MIKES CORVETTE CORNER**

## ***Tire Care/Maintenance/Precautions Part 1***

**Tires are important but often abused component of a vehicle. They not only influence comfort and ride, but perform vital safety functions. Be sure to inspect your tires at least every 2000 miles for wear and damage. Damage to wheel and tires is not always easy to see. If you think that a tire or wheel has been damaged its best to have it replaced as soon as possible. Internal tire damage can never get better or heal itself, it can only get worse over time.**

### **Tire Storage:**

**Mark tires before removing them. Remount tires on the same vehicle side because the rotation direction must stay the same. Store removed tires in a cool , dry and preferably dark place. Tires that are not on wheels should be stored standing up. New tires may have different tread depths due to the configuration and design by the tire manufacturers. When replacing tires, use ones with matching thread depth.**

### **New Tires:**

**New tires tend to be slippery and cannot offer full traction until they have been properly broken in. To avoid loss of control, always operate your Corvette at lower speeds with added caution. Depending on your driving habits, the full grip of new tires can take up to 500 miles.**

### **Tire service life/Tire pressure:**

**The service life of your tires depends for the most part on the following factors: Driving habits; Fast cornering, heavy acceleration, and hard braking all increase tire wear.**

**Always refer to your owners manual for cold tire inflation pressures. Many of our Corvettes have that information on the door jamb or fuel filler door. I believe it was used on the filler door one year on C4's.**

**Incorrect tire pressures can lead to the following:**

- A serious collision, or fatal accident.**
- Increase tire wear and can affect handling of the vehicle.**
- Sudden tire failure and deflation, causing loss of vehicle control.**

### **Tire inflation tips:**

- 1. Low tire pressure increases fuel consumption.**
- 2. If you are doing a lot of highway driving, most manufacturers suggest increasing tire pressure 5 psi.**
- 3. Always check tire pressure when the tires are cold. When tires are warm, the pressure will be higher.**
- 4. The definition of a 'cold tire' as told to me by Goodyear a number of years ago means: The**

**vehicle has been standing for at least 3 hours or driven less than 1 mile.**

- 5. And here's something we all forget, don't forget to check the condition, and pressure of the spare tire. (if so equipped)**

**In part two of Mike's Corvette Corner in May 2016, I will discuss Low aspect ratio and Ultra High performance tires.**

**Mike**