

Everything You Need to Know About Buying 225/55r17 All-Season Tires

When you're ready to replace all-season tires that are damaged, worn, old, or that don't perform as you want, the tire number, such as 225/55r17 found on 225/55r17 tires, helps you find the right replacements.

What do the numbers on 225/55r17 tires all-season tires mean?

The tire number for your vehicle's all-season tires can be found in your vehicle's manual or on your tires. The number contains letters and groups of numbers that tell the size of the tire, the size of the wheel it fits, and how it is constructed among other information. The following is what the 225/55r17 means:

- Letter: The letter that starts a tire number, such as p225/55r17, represents the type of vehicle that uses the tire. A tire with a number that begins with a "p" is for a passenger vehicle. The letters "lt" stand for light truck. The letter "t" is for a temporary tire.
- Size: The next two numbers on 225/55r17 tires tell you the tire is 225 millimeters wide, and the height is 55% of the width.
- Construction: The letter that sometimes follow these first two numbers, such as the "r" in 225/55r17 tires, indicates the tire construction. An "r" is for radial tires.
- Wheel size: The wheel size needed for the tire is indicated by the next number, so the wheels of 225/55r17 all-season tires is 17 inches.

Reasons to replace your tires.

Of course, you need to replace a tire that has been irreparably damaged, but there are other signs to watch for that indicate that you need to replace one or more tires.

When considering tires, such as 225 55r17 all season tires, those with less than 5/32 of an inch of tread should not be used in snow, and those with less than 4/32 of an inch of tread should not be used in rain.

Tires that are more than six years old also need replacement. A three number Department of Transportation (DOT) code on tires indicates the tires were manufactured before 2000. The last two numbers of a four number DOT code give the year the tire was manufactured. The first two give the week of the year.

How can I tell if my tires are so damaged that I need to replace them?

<p>Here is a list of signs that your tires are so badly damaged that they need to be replaced:</p>

Run your hands over the treads and the sidewall. Feel and look for irregularities, waviness, or bumps that signal that the rubber has separated from the steel belts.

Seeing even just a few thin steel wires showing through the tread can indicate that steel cords inside the tire are exposed. Examine the interior to determine if the cords are exposed.

Examine the tire's beads, the thick rings of rubber where the tire contacts the wheel, for damage. Especially, look for missing chunks of beading.

Small punctures can be plugged, but you also should have the inside of the tire patched. If the tire has a large puncture or if it has a punctures within 1 inch of the sidewalls, it should be replaced.

Small particles of rubber dust inside the tire, a stripe of wear around the sidewall that feels soft to your touch, or a sidewall so worn that you see the internal structure of the tire indicates damage to the interior liner.

New tires versus used tires.

<p>If you need to replace all of your tires, purchasing all new tires will ensure that they wear evenly. If, however, you only need to replace one tire that has been damaged while the others are fine, you can save money by purchasing a used replacement, such as 225 55r17 used tires.</p>