



# LIONSHEAD

## General Tire Inspection

Owners should always inspect their tires before every trip. Areas that need to be inspected are:

### **TIRE TREAD**

The tread on a tire provides the traction needed to keep a trailer from slipping and sliding on the roadway. Inspect for signs of uneven wear, as it might indicate issues such as over-inflation, under-inflation or misalignment. Tires with tread at or below 2/32 of an inch, should be replaced. Be aware that many tires have built-in tread wear indicators to help show when to replace a tire.

### **CRACKS, PUNCTURES, AND FOREIGN OBJECTS**

Cracks, punctures, and foreign objects can create spaces that allow air to escape from tires. Remove foreign objects as soon as you notice them wedged in your tire tread to prevent further damage. If you notice a crack or puncture, it may be repairable by plugging the hole and patching the area surrounding the hole. If this doesn't resolve the issue, or if your tire's sidewall has been punctured, it will need to be replaced.

### **VALVE STEM**

In addition to inspecting tires for cracks, be sure to check the valve stem. Stems can become cracked or punctured, creating a slow leak and causing a towing hazard.

### **DAMAGE OR DEFORMITIES**

Keep an eye out for deformities such as bulges, cuts, and flat spots. Replace your tires if you notice any of these.

### **AGE**

Age is also a factor to consider. Each tire manufacturer will likely have different recommendations on the service life of a particular type of tire. Statistics suggest the average life of a trailer tire is about five years under normal use and maintenance conditions. Tire replacement should be considered after three years, even if the tires appear to have adequate tread depth. Consult with your tire dealer if you have questions regarding the life expectancy of your trailer's tires.

It is also important to know the most common causes of trailer tire damage to extend the life of your tires.

- Improper tire pressure
- Excessive exposure to sunlight, moisture, and extreme temperatures
- Trailers stored with weight on the tires
- Excessive speed
- Improper loading
- Exposure to high temperatures while in use
- Sporadic use of the trailer
- Axle issues that affect wear on the tires, such as alignment issues

If you have questions regarding your trailer's tires and when to replace them, consult with your owner's manual, your trailer dealer, or a tire professional.