

SEGENSWORTH

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A U T O M O B I L E S

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Winter Car Maintenance



Keeping you safe on the road this winter

Winter Tyres: Checklist

Be Safe this Winter!

As the weather begins to change, it is key to ensure the condition of your tyres are road worthy. Icy roads are dangerous because tyres find it harder to grip, it is therefore of paramount importance to ensure your tyres are over the 3mm tread depth.

30% more traffic accidents happen in the winter months. So, before setting off on any journey please check your tyres by using the checklist below.



Preparing your car and motorbike...

Having good tyres in the winter months could save your life so it is of paramount importance to perform regular visual checks which will highlight any prominent defects.

If you find any damage or wear, the best advice is to bring your car to **Segensworth Automobiles** for repair or replacement of your tyre.

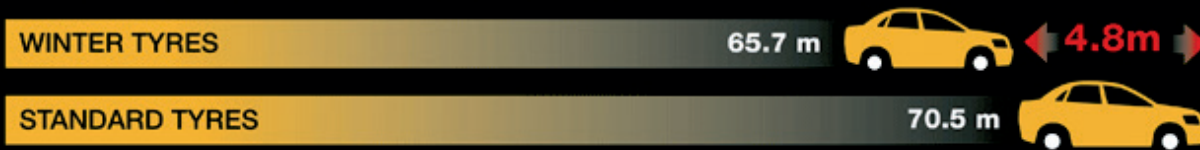


Tyre Checklist:

- Damage to the tyre walls - cuts, cracks or bulges could lead to slow punctures or blow-outs at high speeds so should be dealt with immediately.
- Make sure your tyres have plenty of tread to help reduce your stopping distance. A tread depth of 3mm or more will give your tyres more grip in the snow and ship away any extra water lying on the road.
- You should always check your tyre pressure when the tyres are cold. Your vehicle handbook will have the recommended pressure for your tyres. Under driving conditions the tyres will warm up and give you a false pressure reading.

Winter Tyres: Performance Differences

Braking on wet roads from 62 mph to rest at 5°C



- ◆ Below 7°C braking distances are shorter on wet roads with winter tyres

Braking on snowy roads from 30 mph to rest



- ◆ Even at 30mph there are significant benefits in terms of braking when using winter tyres on snowy roads

Braking on icy roads from 20 mph to rest



- ◆ At 20mph, winter tyres would stop the vehicle 11 metres sooner on icy roads

Why Fit Winter Tyres?

It is unreasonable to expect one tyre type to provide high safety levels with temperature ranges such as +30°C to -15°C in the UK. Winter tyres are designed to operate best in temperatures below 7°C and provide extra peace of mind for the motorist during the cold winter periods. The optimum fitment for safety is to fit standard (summer) tyres in the warmer months and winter tyres in the colder months.

Performance differences between standard and winter tyres in wintry conditions:

- On wet roads at 62mph winter tyres stop 4.8m sooner
- On snowy roads at 30mph winter tyres stop 8m sooner
- On icy roads at 20mph winter tyres stop 11m sooner

Winter tyres have a high proportion of natural rubber which enables the tyre to remain flexible and grip even at low temperature. At 7°C the tread compound in standard tyres begins to harden and loses grip. Assuming a tread depth of at least 4mm, the modern winter tyre tread pattern delivers excellent grip not only on wet roads but on snow as well. A large number of sipes create biting edges that interlock with the wintry surface, thus guaranteeing reliable braking properties

Winter tyres provide:

- Higher levels of road safety during the colder winter months.
- Shorter stopping distances compared to summer tyres, on both wet and dry roads at low temperatures.
- Improved mileage in winter weather when compared to summer tyres. The wear on summer tyres increases during the winter months reducing mileage by up to 20%.

Due to the different compounds and pattern designs of winter tyres in comparison to standard tyres, these should not be mixed on the same vehicle, and so should be fitted as a set.



Safety in Snow: Key points to remember



Key Points to Safer Driving:

Before you head off on your journey:

- Get up at least 10 minutes early to give yourself time to prepare the car.
- Plan your journey to favour major roads which are more likely to have been cleared and gritted.
- Allow extra time for winter journeys but be prepared for the unavoidable of being late for work due to unexpected delay. Safety first before punctuality!

Visibility:

- Make sure that your bulbs are working and the lenses are clean.
- It is important to clear all snow off of your car before you drive away. Especially cleared from the lights, front and back windows and from the roof as this can fall onto the windscreen obscuring your view.
- Headlights are to be used when visibility is reduced. Front or rear fog lights can be used when visibility is seriously reduced but these must be switched off when visibility improves! These can overwhelm other road users and obscure your brake lights.

Driving in snow and ice:

- Stopping distances are 10 times longer in ice and snow. Gentle manoeuvres are the key to safe driving!
- Wear comfortable, dry shoes for driving.
- Pull away in second gear by gently easing your foot off the clutch to avoid wheel-spin.
- Up hill - Give the car in front plenty of room so you can avoid having to stop part way up. Keep at a constant speed by choosing a suitable gear well in advance to avoid having to change on the hill.
- Down hill - reduce your speed before approaching the hill, use a low gear and try to avoid using the brakes. Try to leave as much room as possible between you and the car in front.
- If you have to use brakes then apply them gently. If the car skids release the brakes and gently re-apply.
- If you get stuck in the snow try to straighten the steering and clear the wheels. To give the tyres some grip put a sack or old rug in front of the driving wheels. Once you are on the move again, try not to stop until you reach firmer ground.

We are a Top 20 Garage in the South East, as voted for by you, in the Motorcodes Garage of the Year 2013 contest.



Drive Safe!

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