

What is Tire Tread Depth?

Worksheet

Tire tread depth is the height of rubber grooves on a tire surface. Legal minimum is 1.6 mm; below this depth, braking safety decreases dramatically, especially on wet roads.

Questions

1. Legal minimum tire tread depth?
A) 0.8 mm
B) 1.2 mm
C) 1.6 mm
D) 2.0 mm
2. Why do deep grooves help in wet conditions?
A) they add weight
B) they channel water away from the tire surface
C) they reduce speed
D) they improve fuel economy
3. A tire at 1.5 mm tread depth. Legal status?
A) legal and safe
B) illegal, must replace
C) legal but risky
D) legal until next inspection
4. Which method checks tread depth correctly?
A) look at the tire color
B) use a tread-depth gauge or penny test
C) feel the tire by hand
D) count the number of grooves
5. A tire shows 1.2 mm tread depth. Is it legal to drive?
6. Tread depth of 3.5 mm. Safe for wet driving?
7. Measure tread at three points; readings are 2.1, 1.8, 1.5 mm. Can you drive?
8. Define: What is tire tread depth?
9. Define: What is the legal minimum tread depth?
10. Define: Why is tread depth important?

Answer Key

1. C) 1.6 mm — 1.6 mm is the legal minimum in EU, UK, and Turkey.
2. B) they channel water away from the tire surface — Grooves displace water, preventing hydroplaning and maintaining grip.
3. B) illegal, must replace — Below 1.6 mm minimum = illegal. Immediate replacement required.
4. B) use a tread-depth gauge or penny test — Gauges and penny tests provide accurate millimetre measurements.
5. Minimum legal tread: 1.6 mm Current tread: 1.2 mm Conclusion: Illegal to drive. Tire must be replaced before use on public roads.
6. Minimum legal: 1.6 mm Current: 3.5 mm Legal Safety: Good grip on wet roads. Safe for normal conditions.
7. Lowest reading: 1.5 mm (below 1.6 mm minimum) Conclusion: NO. The unevenly worn tire is unsafe and illegal.
8. The height of rubber grooves on a tire that channel water and provide braking grip.
9. 1.6 millimetres (mm) in most countries, including Europe and Turkey.
10. Grooves displace water on wet roads. Worn tires hydroplane and lose braking power.

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