

Rubber tire storage

When stored in unfavorable conditions or mishandled, the physical characteristics of rubber tires can change — this could lead to a reduction in tire life and performance. Improper storage and lack of proper fire safety controls increases the property fire hazard and could lead to a loss. Proper storage not only helps maximize the life of tires and maintain their physical characteristics, appearance and performance, but it also reduces the exposure to a fire loss.



RECOMMENDED RUBBER TIRE STORAGE PRACTICES

- Store tires in a clean, cool, dry, dark area away from direct sunlight. The area should be well ventilated but with minimum circulating air.
- The storage area must be kept clean without any contaminants (like oil, grease or water) present and any objects that might cause tire damage (like nails, stones or wood chips) removed.
- Tires should be stored on a pallet or storage rack to minimize exposure to moisture or damage. Damaged pallets or storage racks should not be used to help preserve tire life and performance.
- Store tires away from electric motors, battery chargers, electric welding equipment, electric generators and similar equipment that creates ozone, which has a deteriorating effect on rubber.
- Temporary electrical cords should not be run under, around or through storage racks or piles of rubber tires.
- Smoking should be strictly prohibited in all areas of tire storage.
- Storing tires upright in tire racks prevents distortion or disfiguration and will make mounting easier. If it is necessary to store tires in a horizontal position, stack so that the bottom tire will maintain its shape.
- Whitewall and raised white letter tires that are not wrapped should be stored with white sidewalls facing each other to avoid staining the white through contact with black rubber.
- Tires stored while mounted on rims should be inflated to 50% of the normal pressure.
- Tires that have been in storage the longest should be used first. If tires are ordered just in time for installation, a clean and dry area should be provided for storage until installed.
- If used tires have accumulated, don't store them directly next to the building. It's recommended to store used tires away from the building at a 50-foot clearance. If there are space restrictions on the property, used tires should be stored as far from the building as possible. Schedule used tire pick-up services frequently to keep accumulation low.
- If the building has automatic sprinkler protection, the clearance from sprinkler heads should be a minimum of 36 inches from rubber tires per NFPA 13 – Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

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If you have any questions, please contact your UFG Risk Control consultant — we're here to help and provide any technical assistance that may be needed.

The information contained in this service bulletin was obtained from reliable sources. However, UFG accepts no legal responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this information.

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