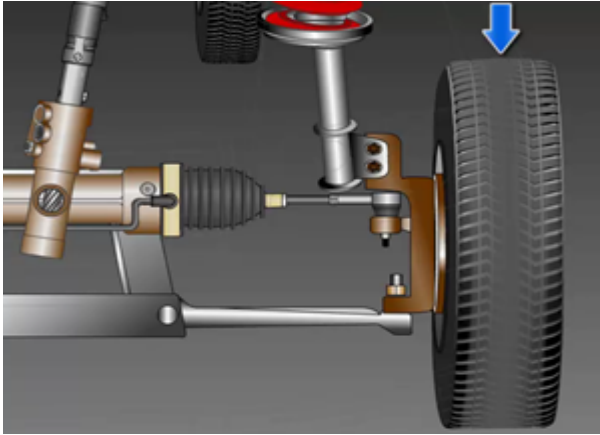


Tire



Over- or under-inflated tires cause uneven tread wear around the circumference of the tire.

The tread of a tire refers to the rubber compound that surrounds the circumference of the tire. It is grooved so as to displace water while driving as well as provide traction on loose surfaces.

Certain precautions must be taken in order to ensure that tires wear evenly. An over inflated tire creates a slight bulge in the center of the tread. This causes the center of the tread to wear quicker than the edges. On the other hand, an underinflated tire tread is concave, causing the edges to wear quicker than the center section of the tread. Tire cupping appears as cupped or dished tread on the edges of the tire. It is usually caused by worn or bent suspension parts, like a worn shock absorber.



Tread separation refers to when tread pulls away from the steel layer of the tire, creating a bump in the surface of the tire.

Tire separation is a condition when the tread becomes separated from the steel belts. It normally creates a bump in the tread, and can be heard as a thumping noise while driving, often accompanied by a shake in the steering wheel. Once tire separation is detected, tires should be replaced immediately to avoid a potentially dangerous tire failure.