

ADVISORY BULLETIN

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Where should two new tyres be fitted?

If only two new tyres are fitted to a passenger vehicle, ATIC always recommend they should be installed on the rear axle. This is due to a number of reasons:

- Compared to new tyres, partially worn tyres have less tread and will therefore have lower grip in the wet and be more prone to aquaplaning
- If partially worn (lower grip) tyres are fitted to the rear axle with the new tyres fitted to the front, when the vehicle is cornering the vehicle will tend to lose grip at the rear before the front, leading to the dangerous phenomenon called "Over-steer".
- Most drivers find oversteer difficult to control.
- If the part worn tyres are placed on the front and the new tyres fitted to the rear as per the ATIC recommendation then when the vehicle is cornering, the front of the vehicle will tend to lose grip first leading to an understeer condition.
- Understeer is much more predictable, and most drivers find it easier to correct this than oversteer.
- Also new tyres have all of their tread remaining and have not been exposed to any service or damage and are therefore less prone to punctures.
- A punctured tyre on the rear of the vehicle will again quickly lose function and lead to lower grip and again to dangerous oversteer
- It is Important to note that the recommendation to fit new tyres on the rear of the vehicle applies regardless of whether the vehicle is front or rear wheel drive.

Some additional tips

- Before fitting the new tyres, the existing 4 road tyres should be inspected to confirm roadworthiness. Then the "best" two tyres should be selected to be fitted to the front of the vehicle
- New tyres should be fitted to an approved rim contour as defined by the Tyre and Rim Association of Australia (T&RAA) manual
- If in doubt, always refer to your local tyre expert

This Bulletin should be considered as being of a general advisory nature only. In case of conflict with existing recommendations issued by a vehicle manufacturer, these latter recommendations should apply.

