

**Note:** Winter tire traction is significantly degraded in winter conditions when the tread depth is less than 4 mm. See **209, USING WINTER TIRES**.

The correct tire specification for your vehicle can be found on the tire pressure label. See **206, TIRE PRESSURE LABEL**.

## AVOIDING FLAT SPOTS

In areas of extended high ambient temperature, vehicle tires can be affected by a softening of the tire sidewall. If the vehicle is stationary for long periods, the effect is to slightly deform the tire at the point where the tire meets the standing surface. This is known as a flat spot.

This is normal tire behavior. However, when the vehicle is subsequently driven, vibration may be experienced from the flat spot. The condition will steadily improve with additional mileage.

In order to minimize flat spotting, the tire pressures can be increased to the maximum as stated on the tire sidewall. Tires must be returned to the specified running pressures before driving, see **206, TIRE PRESSURE LABEL**.

## TIRE DEGRADATION

Tires degrade over time due to the effects of ultraviolet light, extreme temperatures, high loads, and environmental conditions. It is recommended that all tires, including the spare, are replaced at least every six years, but they may require replacement more frequently.

## USING WINTER TIRES

The **M+S** (mud and snow) marking on the tire sidewall indicates an 'all season' tire designed for use all year round, including cold temperatures, snow, and ice.



This symbol identifies dedicated winter tires, which can be fitted if optimum winter traction is required, or the vehicle is to be used in more extreme winter conditions.

**Note:** A dedicated winter tire often has a lower speed rating than the original equipment tire, and the vehicle must; therefore, be driven within the speed limitation of the tire. Consult your Retailer/Authorized Repairer for further information.

The tire pressures indicated on the tire pressure label are for use in all conditions on the original equipment tires. If a reduced speed rating tire is fitted, the recommended pressures are only suitable for use below 100 mph (160 km/h).

For optimum traction, tires should be run in for at least 100 miles (160 kilometers) on dry roads, prior to driving on snow or ice.

Note that the tire traction is significantly degraded in winter conditions when the tread depth is less than 4 mm.

Use of dedicated winter tires may require a change of wheel size, depending on the original choice of wheel. All four wheels must be changed.

If fitted with standard rubber valves, the Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) warning lamp will flash for 75 seconds and then remain illuminated. The Message center will also display **TIRE PRESSURE MONITORING SYSTEM FAULT**.

When the original wheels and tires are refitted, the vehicle will need to travel a short distance to reset the TPMS and extinguish the warning lamp.