Ideally, tyres should be replaced in sets of four. If this is not possible, replace the tyres in pairs (both front or both rear). When tyres are replaced, the wheels should always be re-balanced and the alignment checked.

The correct tyre specification for your vehicle can be found on the tyre information label. See **226, CHECKING THE TYRE PRESSURES**.

AVOIDING FLAT SPOTS

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

This is normal tyre behaviour. 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 minimise flat spotting, the tyre pressures can be increased to the maximum, as stated on the tyre sidewall. Tyres must be returned to the specified running pressures before driving, see **225, TYRE PRESSURES**.

TYRE DEGRADATION

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

USING WINTER TYRES

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



This symbol identifies dedicated winter tyres, 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 tyre often has a lower speed rating than the original equipment tyre, and the vehicle must; therefore, be driven within the speed limitation of the tyre. Consult your Dealer/Authorised Repairer for further information. In markets that require a tyres maximum speed label to be fitted, the tyre's maximum speed label should be placed within the driver's field of vision. These can be obtained from the tyre dealer.*

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

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

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

Note that some countries have a higher minimum legal tread depth for winter tyres than for summer tyres.

Use of dedicated winter tyres 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 Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) warning lamp will flash for 75 seconds and then remain illuminated. The Message centre will also display **TYRE PRESSURE MONITORING SYSTEM FAULT**.