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## Consumer reports best tire stores

Our tests measure performance in braking, comfort, handling, hydroplaning (when water comes between your tyre and pavement), noise, snow grip and other important areas. We test ice braking at a local ice rink (except for SUV and truck tires this year due to COVID-19 restrictions), and an external lab assesses the rolling resistance of tires that affect fuel economy. Plus, we assess tread life by driving thousands of miles on a roadway in west Texas and using this information, along with the price we paid for the tire, to estimate a price per 100 miles for each tire model. Together, this comprehensive information can help you find the best tires from 35 brands that include BFGoodrich, Bridgestone, Continental, Cooper, Falken, Firestone, General, Goodyear, Hankook, Kumho, Michelin, Nexen, Nitto, Nokian, Pirelli, Toyo, Uniroyal, Vredestein and Yokohama. A tyre must excel at the performance and safety of our tests to earn a Consumer Reports recommendation. If you're a CR member, you can access the locations below and see our dynamic tyre ratings, where you can target the type of tyre you're interested in and see specific test results. Replacing tyres is expensive, but our analysis shows that taking the time to consult tyre test results can identify the models that excel in the areas that matter most to you and provide good value, says Gene Petersen, Consumer Reports' tyre program manager. He adds that it is common to find discounts available from tire manufacturers, often around \$100 off per set, simply by visiting their websites. To identify the best tyre values, the CR tyre team reviewed the scores for hundreds of tyres tested. We also reviewed the tested tread life and price paid for the tires so we could calculate the cost per mile for each tire. From this, we've identified a dozen standout tires across several popular categories. They are presented below, with their total score, select ratings, and cost per 10,000 miles, based on the price we paid for the tested tires and the results from our tread test. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, many tire retailers are open for business. Discount Tire, a major tire retailer, told CR that most of its more than 1,000 stores are open for business and focused on essential services. (Learn how to determine if you need tires and how to fix car maintenance during the pandemic.) There are also online options, such as Tire Rack, a major national retailer. Because of the pandemic, customers may want to consider mobile installation – when technicians come to your home or shop to replace tires. Tire Rack's website lists mobile install services among its independent recommended installers. If you are a CR member, the list below is already available to you. However, if you have not signed up, click below and be to access this list and all our exclusive reviews and reviews for each vehicle we buy and test. Sign-up also gives you full access to exclusive ratings ratings the other products that our experts evaluate in several categories, including electronics and home appliances. When rubber meets the road, tread life is one of the most important things to consider while shopping for tires. Check out our ratings and reviews and review our purchase guide to find the best tires for any season for your car, truck or SUV. Despite advances in longer-lasting tires, the actual tread life will vary by car type, tire type, driving aggressiveness, and even road and weather conditions. You still need to replace your tyres a few times or more over the lifetime of a typical vehicle. Tires have a wealth of information encoded on their sidewalls. When replacing them, we recommend that you stay with the size and speed of the car's original tyres. See the user's guide for more information. Size: On the deck below, 215 is cross-sectional width in millimeters; 60 is the ratio of side wall height to its width (60 percent); R indicates radial layer construction; and 16 is the rim diameter in inches. Load index: Shorthand for the weight each tire can carry safely. The 94 here means 1,477 pounds per tire—pretty typical for a medium-sized car tire. This is the maximum tyre load. Speed rating: A letter that indicates the tyre's maximum speed when it carries the load defined by the load index — not how fast you need to run! Standard all-seasons are usually rated S (112 mph) or T (118 mph). Climbing up the scale are H (130 mph), V (149 mph), ZR (149-plus mph), W (168 mph), and Y (186 mph) ratings. Winter tyres can carry the letter Q (99 mph) or higher. Tread quality: A publicly required number indicating the expected wear of a tyre. A class of 300 denotes a tyre that will carry three times as well as a tyre rated 100. But the figures are assigned by tyre manufacturers, not an independent third party. Traction and temperature score: These scores denote a tire-stopping ability and temperature resistance. For traction, AA is best, C is worst. For temperature resistance, scores vary from A (best) to C. Manufacturing date code: Each tire has a Department of Transportation number after the letters on the side wall. The last four digits show the week and the year in which the tire was made. For example, the digits 2315 would mean that the tire was made during the 23rd day of 2015. Don't buy tires more than a few years old. Finding the right tires is important, but so are the tire stores where you buy them. Price, choice, service and installation quality can vary widely. From big box stores to online tire retailers and big tire retail chains, see our ratings and reviews to shop at the best tire stores. Despite advances in tyre technology, tread life is limited and will vary by car type, tyre type (e.g. all season or high performance), driving aggressiveness and even road and weather conditions. You have to replace your tires a few times or more in the whole life of a typical vehicle. As the saying goes, nothing lasts Eternal. Correct Correct and responsible driving can maximize mileage in a set of tyres. Monthly tread inspections can inform when tires warrant replacement, well in advance of the federally mandated treadwear indicators. And when it comes time to buy, you can use CR tread wear ratings to find tires that promise a long life. Before you buy new tires, check cr's exclusive ratings for tire stores. Les Schwab Tire Centers, which operates in nine Western states, tops the chart, getting top marks from Consumer Reports members for their sales staff, free perks (such as tire fitting, tire balancing, or tire rotation), installation quality, waiting area, and easy checkout. Members rated their installation time as better than average, although survey respondents rated their product choices as average. Overall, about two-thirds of retail chains earned a favorable overall measure of satisfaction with points from 83 to 91 points. The bottom third of retailers earned passable scores ranging from 78 to 82 points. Ninety percent of tire buyers in our survey said they are very happy with their purchase and 88 percent are very satisfied with their installation experience. There are clear differences between the different retail experiences, especially in terms of free perks, installation time, and waiting area. There's also quite a bit of variety when it comes to selection, sales staff, and checkout ease. The tyre buying experience looks quite positive for most customers based on our latest member survey, says Gene Petersen, Consumer Reports' tyre program manager. But there are significant differences in the facets of the shopping experience that can drive customers to favor certain retailers. For example, online retailers offer a wide selection, while physical stores are limited, but may be able to get what you want if you can wait. Three out of four buyers were very happy with the price they paid for the tires and installation. Other key factors include service quality from installation staff (84 percent), sales service (83 percent) and easy check-out (83 percent). Respondents were somewhat less likely to be very satisfied with product choices (70 percent), installation time (68 percent) and waiting areas (67 percent). CR members reported a typical installation time of 33 minutes per tire. (So there's a good chance that you could wait over 2 hours to get four tires installed.) Only 2 percent of consumers reported that their tire installation required waiting until the next day or longer to complete. Pep Boys, Mavis Discount Tire and NTB Tire & Service are at the bottom of our latest tyre dealer ratings. Especially these retailers all get dinged for the lack of free perks and the time it takes them to install tires. But they are still rated very well, overall. These are among the results of a large-scale study of CR members, reported their tire purchases and/or experiences in walk-in chains, online dealers, independent tire dealers, and car dealers, between autumn 2017 and fall 2018. Retailers are presented below in order of how they rate for overall satisfaction, starting with the best-rated retailer. See CR's complete tyre dealer satisfaction scores, including ratings across nine purchase/installation factors. Factors.