

A Consumer's Guide to Energy-Efficient Tyres

Choosing more energy-efficient tyres for your vehicle will help you save fuel and reduce your costs. With the easy-to-read energy efficiency label, finding the right tyre for you is simple. To ensure fuel savings does not mean lower safety or higher noise, the label highlights three important parameters: fuel efficiency, wet grip and noise. This guide is geared to helping you make an informed and energy-efficient purchase.

Save energy and money by choosing energy efficient tyres!

Rolling resistance and fuel efficiency



As you drive down the road your tyres rotate, flexing towards and away from the road's surface, which causes energy to be lost. The amount of energy lost depends on the tyres' rolling resistance.

The most energy efficient tyres have a low rolling resistance. This means less energy – and less fuel – is needed to move the vehicle.

As tyres account for 20 to 30% of a vehicle's fuel consumption, choosing energy efficient tyres results in fuel cost savings.

Tyre Classes

The tyres labelling Regulation applies to the following classes:

- C1** Car tyres
- C2** Van tyres
- C3** Lorry and bus tyres

They do not apply to re-treaded tyres or temporary-use spare tyres.

Labels or stickers are mandatory for C1 and C2 tyres. For C3 tyres, the information on the performance classes is sufficient.

Reading the tyre label

Your tyres will come with a label divided into three sections with information on:

1. Fuel Efficiency

Depending on the tyre's rolling resistance, its Fuel Efficiency Class will range from:

- **A** is the most efficient tyre and will save you fuel;
- **G** is the least efficient tyre and will use up the most fuel.

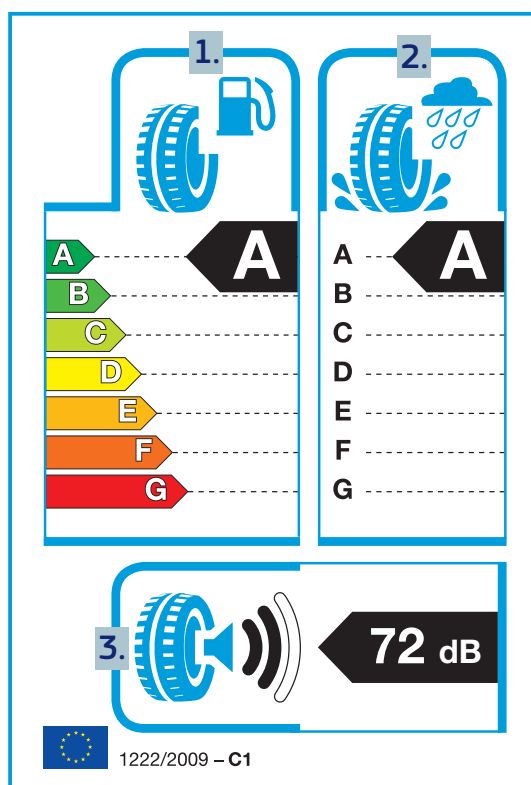
2. Wet Grip

The Wet Grip rating tells you how well the tyres perform in wet conditions on a scale from **A** (safest) to **G** (worst performing tyre).

3. Noise

A tyre's noise level is measured in decibels (dB) using a three wave scale

A brand space provides the manufacturer's details, including the trade name/mark, tyre line, tyre dimensions, load index, speed rating, etc.



How much difference does it make?

Choosing energy-efficient tyres will lower your fuel costs. For example, switching from Class G tyres to Class A tyres can reduce fuel consumption by up to 9%.

If your vehicle has a fuel consumption of 8 l/100km and you cover 65,000 km on new tyres, this means a fuel saving of up to 440 litres over the lifetime of the tyres. With a fuel price of €1.50 per litre, this equates to a cost saving of €660 over the lifetime of the tyres.

You can calculate how much fuel you can save by choosing energy-efficient tyres with this [fuel saving calculator](#).

Remember, the additional purchasing costs of energy efficient tyres may be compensated by the fuel savings resulting in overall total savings over time.

What the tyre label is

The label uses easy-to-understand pictograms to provide information on three essential aspects of a tyre's performance: fuel efficiency, wet grip and external rolling noise. This information helps consumers make an informed choice.

What the tyre label is not

The label is NOT a quality label covering all aspects related to the overall performance of a tyre. It cannot replace quality testing by specialised laboratories or information provided by manufacturers and others (e.g. motoring associations), which may use a wider range of criteria for characterising the tyres.

For clarity reasons, the label does not address too many parameters. For example, it does not address how long the tyre will last, driving in snow, behaviour in aquaplaning or handling on curves.

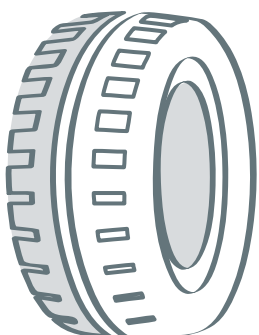
Tips for efficient driving

- Regularly check your tyre pressure to ensure they are at the recommended level as pressure affects fuel consumption and braking performance.
- Check for signs of uneven wear in the tyres, especially along the edges of the front tyres. This might indicate a tracking or suspension problem that could increase fuel consumption, as well as wear your tyres out more quickly – costing you more money.
- Avoid harsh acceleration and decelerations. This increases your fuel consumption and wears out your tyres.

In addition:

- Ensure the vehicle is maintained as per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Extra weight increases fuel consumption – regularly clear out any non-essential items from the vehicle.

More information



European Commission

- Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the labelling of tyres with respect to fuel efficiency and other essential parameters
- DG ENERGY Energy Efficiency – Tyre labelling

Product calculator

- Tyre fuel saving calculator available from: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/fuel_savings_calculator_en.xls

Should you have a question, please visit:
Europe Direct contact Centre:
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/contact/index_en.htm

