

## Tyre rubber cracking and crazing

Tyre rubber cracking and crazing is a natural phenomenon and is not covered under warranty.

After repeated cycles of use, tyres are exposed to acid rain, brake dust, harsh chemicals and direct sunlight, as well as heat and cold exposure to the elements will eventually cause rubber to lose some of its elasticity and allow surface cracks to appear.

This phenomenon can be accelerated by too much exposure to heat, vehicle exhaust, ozone and sunlight, bad storage condition, as well as electric generators and motors (that have armature brushes). For example, tyres which are used in high ozone concentration and temperature areas, increase the likelihood of cracking faster than the others.

The surface cracks that occasionally appear have been called many things: Weather Crazing, Ozone Cracking, aging or Dry rot. These small cracks typically develop in the sidewalls, on the tread as well as at the base of the tread grooves. Depending on their severity, they may be cosmetic in nature if they don't extend past the rubber's outer surface or may be a reason to replace the tyre if they reach deep into the rubber.



*Example of weather crazing*

To prevent from premature appearance of rubber cracking and crazing, the recommendation is

- Non-service tyres must be stored in good condition, in premises that are well-ventilated, dry and temperate, protected from direct contact from the elements
- Avoid tyre contact with unusual heat / sunlight / chemical / ozone generating machinery / electric generators and motors (that have armature brushes)
- Avoid harsh driving
- Do not use harsh chemicals or cleaning products which can strip the tyre of its anti-ageing components
- Good maintenance of tyre inflation pressure
- Periodic usage of the tyres (not parked for too long)