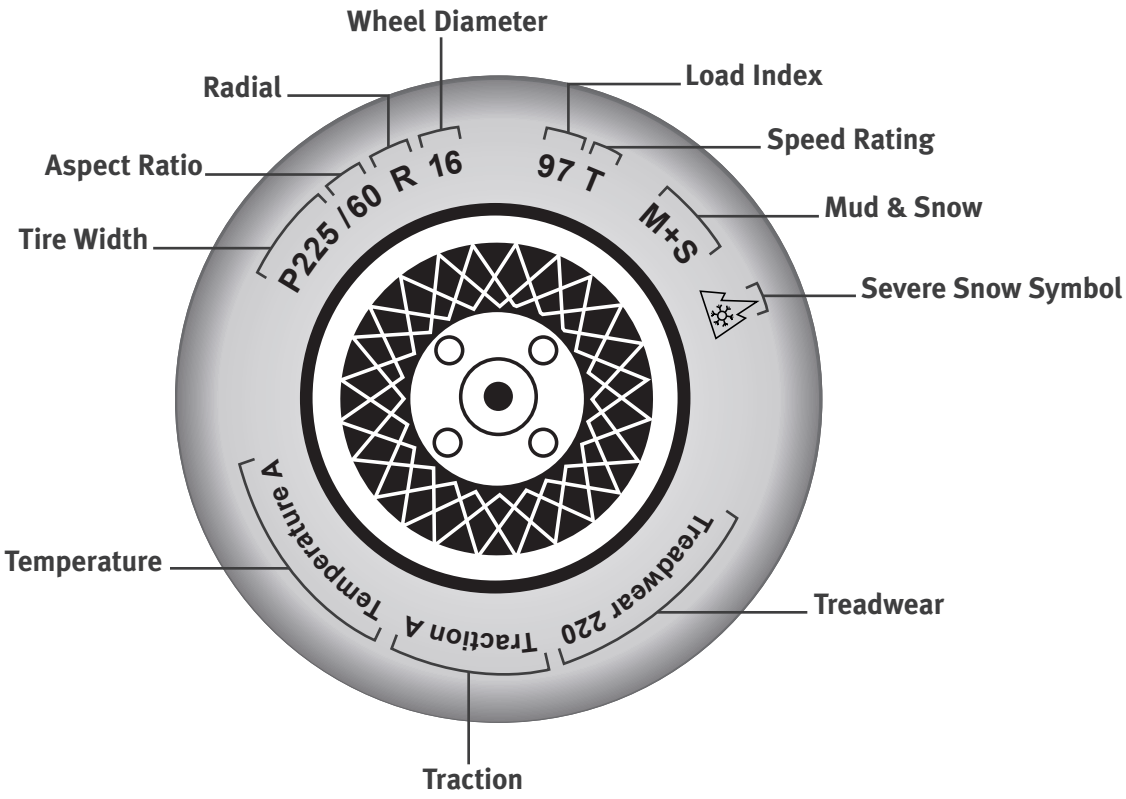
How to Read a Sidewall

The markings on a tire's sidewall provide a lot of information about the tire. Knowing how to read your sidewall can save you time and help you make an informed purchase.



Tire Width

The three-digit number refers to the overall width of the tire in millimeters. A wider tire will out-corner a slimmer one.

Radial

The letter "R" indicates a radial construction of the carcass plies. The carcass plies run across the tire from lip to lip, helping to provide strength, stability, flexibility, and ride comfort.

Aspect Ratio

The relationship between the tire height and width. In this example, the tire height is approximately 60% of the tire width.

Wheel Diameter

The number indicates that this tire fits on a wheel with a 16-inch diameter.

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Load Index

The load index can range from 0 to 279 and indicates how much weight the tire is certified to carry at maximum inflation pressure. Never buy a tire with a lower load index than your vehicle's original tire. To determine your tire's load capacity, refer to the load index chart (see below):

Load Index	Maximum Load (lbs.)
74	827
75	853
76	882
77	908
78	937
79	963
80	992
81	1019
82	1047
83	1074
84	1102
85	1135
86	1168
87	1201
88	1235
89	1279
90	1323
91	1356

Speed Rating*

The speed rating tells you the top speed at which the tire can operate. Speed ratings range from N (lowest) to Z (highest) with one exception: the H rating falls between U and V. To maintain the speed capabililty of a vehicle, use replacement tires with ratings equal or greater than those of the original tires.

Speed Destination	Maximum Speed Rating
N	87 mph
P	93 mph
Q	99 mph
R	106 mph
S	112 mph
T	118 mph
U	124 mph
H	130 mph
V	149 mph
W	168 mph
Y	186 mph
Z	149+ mph

*Exceeding the safe, legal speed limit is neither recommended nor endorsed.

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Mud & Snow
The letters M and S indicate that this tire meets the Rubber Manufacturer's Association's standards for a mud and snow tire. The letters can be found in the following combinations: M+S, M/S, and M&S. All-season tires carry this mark.

Severe Snow Symbol
A severe snow marking appears on winter tires that are designated for severe snow applications.

Treadwear
The government standard for wear is 100. If a tire has a rating of 200, we expect it to last twice as long. Conversely, a treadwear rating of 50 means it has half the mileage life.

Traction
Tires are tested for braking on wet concrete and wet asphalt. If a tire brakes well on both surfaces, it receives an A rating. If it brakes well on one surface, it receives a B; and if it brakes poorly on both surfaces, it gets a C. AA is the highest attainable grade.

Temperature
Heavy loads, under-inflation, and high speeds can raise the temperature of a tire dramatically. An A rating means the tire resists heat damage well, B is not as good, and C means the tire passes the minimum safety standards.

Tips:
- Never choose a tire that is smaller than the tire that came with the car.
- If you are interested in a size other than your vehicle's original equipment, or are upgrading, consult your local Uniroyal® tire retailer.

Notes: