



Why Clean Your RV Tires and Wheels

That is a simple question the simple answer is, how else can you reliably access the need to replace your tires or wheels. You could guess when to replace them, OR you could replace them when they begin blowing out. A third way would be to replace them based on their birth-date you know that four digit number stamped on the sidewall everyone has been telling you about to look for.

Every year I remove **ALL** wheels to clean and inspect them for damage or aging (cracks) as part of my annual chassis maintenance. I just completed the fourth annual maintenance on my RV. Keep in mind it has **ONLY** been one year (12 months) since the tires and wheels were last cleaned and inspected, what would the wheel and tire look like if it had **NEVER** been cleaned.



Above is a picture of an inside dual wheel and tire from my 2007 Phaeton before cleaning and inspecting. Remember the grime on the wheel and tire has only been accumulating for 12 months. Performing this degree of maintenance (removing, cleaning and inspecting) is the **ONLY** way I know the condition of both wheels and tires as I prepare for the next season of fun on the road. The second picture is one of the front wheels and tires again the picture was taken before cleaning or inspecting the wheel, tire or the valve stem. This is also a good time to check the nut on the valve stem to make sure the valve stem is tight and will not be the cause of a small air leak.



The third picture was taken after cleaning and inspecting for cracks or cuts to the tread as well as the sidewalls.



The next two pictures are typical of all 6 tires. Dawn dishwashing detergent and water are used for cleaning, **NO** tire dressing.



Does the above tire **LOOK** like it was manufactured during the 41st week of 2006? Unless a tire gets damaged these tires will probably be good for at least two more years. I will take another look in 12 months. How do your RV tires compare? It is something to think about before your next road trip.