



# MOTOR MART

By Fred Mubanda

Uneven tyre wear is common, often resulting from issues such as poor vehicle alignment, imbalance, and aggressive driving habits.

Meerasa Saleem of Tyre Express Uganda Limited on Jinja Road in Kampala, says improper tyre pressure can cause uneven wear.

If the tyres are over or under-inflated, they tend to exhibit more wear in the centre or on the outer section of the tyre, as well as the edges.

Therefore, incorrect tyre inflation can cause increased friction and rubbing between the road and tyre tread, which leads to parts of the tyres wearing out quickly.

Saleem mentions bad wheel alignment, which causes the tyres to point in slightly different directions, resulting in uneven wear and also reducing the lifespan of the tyre.

"Driving habits, including hard braking frequently, sharp turns, high-speed cornering, and rapid acceleration, can lead to uneven wear," he adds.

"Additionally, driving over a pothole can affect the alignment and lead to worn-out tyres."

Suspension problems, such as damaged shock absorbers, weakened springs, or worn out ball joints, can lead to a variety of issues and affect the

## IGNORE UNEVEN TYRES AT YOUR OWN RISK



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vehicle's tyres' interaction with the road, leading to excessive wear patterns.

Another tyre repairer, Israel Mukasa, says a deformed or bent rim disrupts the tyre's contact with the road surface,

leading to irregular tread wear patterns, which reduce the lifespan of the car tyre.

Signs of uneven wear, according to Saleem, include vibration and shaking wheels when driving, differences in

tread depth across the tyre's surface, a humming noise when driving and tyre cupping or scalloped tyres, where sections of the tread are worn down more than others. Mukasa adds that a vehicle consistently

driving on one side is also a sign.

The effects of ignoring uneven tyre wear include reduced fuel efficiency, as Saleem says worn-out tyres increase rolling resistance, forcing the car



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engine to work harder and consume more fuel to maintain speed, which eventually affects your wallet.

Additionally, uneven tyre wear reduces safety while driving, as it results in less grip, particularly in wet or slippery conditions, increasing the risk of accidents on the road.

Mukasa explains that ignoring uneven tyre wear increases the risk of blowouts, where thinner areas of the tread are more vulnerable to blowouts or punctures, which can be dangerous at high speeds.

For prevention, Saleem recommends regular checks for tyre pressure, especially if you drive a lot. It is also essential to ensure proper wheel alignment and accurate wheel balancing from a specialised mechanic or auto spare workshop. Furthermore, it is recommended to rotate your car tyres every 5,000 to 7,000km.