

Transport Canada says that 50% of the cars on the road have under-inflated tires but what does that mean even well. We're here on a beautiful spring day in Mississauga Ontario on a parking lot with good folks that count higher.

So we've got two identical cars brand-new Hyundai Kona's same engine same spec same weight everything like that. On two identical sets of all season tires Nokian tires. One set on one car is inflated to 33 psi to proper inflation for that car. The other set is at 26 psi which is 20% less than what it should be and we're going to take them out on these slalom courses to see the difference in handling so what are these tires inflated to these ones are the properly inflated tires.

So they're inflated to what the door placard is and it says 33 pounds. So this is kind of a base test here on this slalom course so we're just testing the limits of grip here with properly inflated tires and now the quick lane change right. So we've kind of tested the limits of the grip with the properly inflated now let's try under inflated tires so we're about to hit the slalom and instantly. I can feel a lot less grip in the front and as well as the back kicking out a lot and then the big sweeping corner a lot of a lot of understeer here much more and I think you can hear the tires squeal their disapproval. Hopefully, that was terrible but awesome and terrible. So we're stopped now in this beautiful rain weather.

I'm here with Jeff Mikeg a tire expert who works with testing tires with kal tire. Now Jeff you were in the car with me when we were going around and obviously. I had a lot less traction with the under-inflated tires. tell us why that is as soon as you have less air in the tires. The tires are now not performing at their ultimate level and mostly affects the sidewall so with less air in the tire the sidewall doesn't have the same integrity as you turn the sidewall bends over and then the tread.

That's actually touching the road and stays in its grip. So it'll take a split second for that tread to then turn once it does turn because there's less air in that side while holding the the bottom tread touching the ground the tread actually turns more than you desire and it gives you less traction so it affects safety on the road how else does it affect your tires when they're rendered inflated well if you have them under inflated for a period of time you will lessen the the strength of the sidewall because the side walls now doing more flexing than it's supposed to and you'll probably lose somewhere in the range of 15,000 kilometers on the lifetime of the tire from your car. so you're gonna have to change your tires more often .

So Jeff, how often should you check the pressure of your tires? We recommend once a month as a minimum and don't forget don't fill up your tires just based on the number on the sidewall because that's a maximum tire pressure look on the sticker inside of your door for your car or in your owner's manual for the proper inflation for your car. so obviously proper inflation is very important for safety and for tire wear check your inflation at least once a month use a proper tire inflation gauge make sure it works fine and also don't forget your spare tire. A lot of people forget that it is just another way to stay safe on the road for driving.