

Wheels: An e-mail from Ron asks, “I have been hearing ads on the radio for putting nitrogen in tires. Now it sounds strange, but is there any danger to this? What are the benefits to nitrogen in my tires compared to just plain air?”

Haldeman: Nitrogen has been used for years in heavy truck tires and aircraft tires. Nitrogen is 78% of our atmosphere and oxygen is about 21%. It is the oxygen that causes the rubber inside the tire to age. Nitrogen also expands less when hot compared to air (78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen and 1% other gases). Nitrogen is not flammable so that is not a concern. Is it worth extra cost? I am not aware of any study that has been done to determine the cost compared to the benefit. Will it hurt? No. Will it help? I do not know.

