

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Gary asks a couple of questions. “I purchased a 1997 Chevy Tahoe LT with 78,000 miles a couple of weeks ago. This is my first American vehicle in 20 years so I am guardedly optimistic, although it looks like the Tahoe has a lot of nice features similar to other Japanese SUV’s. Anyway, here are my questions:

1. My Tahoe has 265 x 75 R16 tires. They are badly cupped so I am considering having them “trued” as we did back in the 1950s and 1960s. Today this isn’t done much but I just can’t see throwing out good tires. What do you think?
2. I understand that my Tahoe really should have smaller tires on it (245 x 75 R16 as the standard size); therefore, I guess the previous owner must have put on this optional larger size. I do not know if I gain anything using the larger size. What do you think?
3. On my 1993 Trooper, I have 245 x 70 R16 so I thought about putting these on my Tahoe even though the 70 is smaller than the 75 that is called for. I do not feel this difference really has much impact. My major concern is trying to get the larger 265 x 75 R16 which are currently on my Tahoe on my Trooper. My question is can I do this? Will they fit and not rub on the fender walls and etc?

Thanks for your time and reply.”

**Halderman:**

1. I do not suggest having the tires “trued.” This process removes rubber and will improve the ride for a few thousand miles, but will not correct the fault in the body of the tire that caused the original cupping.
2. I suggest that you consult with a knowledgeable tire expert at a tire store because the size you are mounting should not be interchanged. Each tire size has a specified wheel width. As a rule-of-thumb, you can install a tire that is 10 mm larger or smaller on a given wheel without too much problem. For example, if your truck originally had 245/75 X 16 tires, then you could install 255/75 x 16 (+10 mm) or 235/75 x 16 (-10 mm). You should avoid using a 265/75 x 16 tire on a wheel designed for a 245/75 x 16 tire.

Here are some dimensions for the tire you stated:

245/75 x 16 – This tire is 30.5 inches in diameter

245/70 x 16 – This tire is 29.5 inches in diameter

The difference in diameter between these two tires is 3.2%, which would affect the speedometer readings and reduce fuel economy.

3. If 265/75 x 16 is used (31.6 inches in diameter), this would represent a huge 3.9% difference. While it is possible that the larger tires may rub the fenders, the most important consideration when changing tire size is to be sure to maintain the same outside diameter as the original tire that came with the vehicle when new.

