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Tires and Wheels

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FIGURE 35.1 (a) A typical tire tread depth gauge. The center movable plunger is pushed down into the groove of the tire. (b) The tread depth is read at the top edge of the sleeve. In this example, the tread depth is 6/32 in.

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FIGURE 35.2 Wear indicators (wear bars) are strips of bald tread that show when the tread depth is down to 2/32 in., the legal limit in many states.

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FIGURE 35.3 Hydroplaning can occur at speeds as low as 30 mph (48 km/h). If the water is deep enough and the tire tread cannot evacuate water through its grooves fast enough, the tire can be lifted off the road surface by a layer of water. Hydroplaning occurs at lower speeds as the tire becomes worn.

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FIGURE 35.4 Typical construction of a radial tire. Some tires have only one body ply, and some tires use more than two belt plies.

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FIGURE 35.5 The major splice of a tire can often be seen and felt on the inside of the tire. The person who assembles (builds) the tire usually places a sticker near the major splice as a means of identification for quality control.

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