



Storage Guidelines

RunFlat Systems, Wheels & Tires

RunFlats, or complete wheels fitted with tires and RunFlats but not under load (not on a vehicle), should be stored in accordance with the guidelines below, which are based on the ETRTO recommendations on storage dated 2013. Warranty claims may be rejected for products which were not stored in accordance with these guidelines.

This recommendation applies to all RunFlats or tires stored for any period, whether fitted on rims or not. In view of the potential influence of temperature, humidity, light, heat, ozone and chemical agents on RunFlats and tires, the following storage recommendations are made.

HUMIDITY

Moist conditions should be avoided and care must be taken to ensure no condensation occurs. Whenever possible, tires and wheels should be stored inside in cool, dry and moderately ventilated conditions. Once installed inside tires, the RunFlats do not require specific checks other than the specified routine inspections. Tires, wheels or RunFlats should not be stored outdoors and should not be subject to water exposure such as rain or floods.

LIGHT

There should be protection from sunlight and strong artificial light with a high ultraviolet content.

TEMPERATURE

The storage temperature should be below 35°C and preferably below 25°C, but above 10°C. Direct contact with pipes and radiators must be avoided. The effects of extreme high and low temperatures may lead to shortened tire, wheel and RunFlat life.

OXYGEN, OZONE AND CHEMICAL AGENTS

As ozone is particularly harmful, storage rooms should not contain any equipment generating ozone, such as fluorescent lighting with high ultraviolet content, mercury vapor lamps, electrical machines, or other equipment which may produce sparks or other electrical discharges. Combustion gases and vapors which may produce ozone via photochemical processes should also be excluded.

Solvents, fuels, lubricants, chemicals, acids, disinfectants and the like should not be kept in the storage rooms. Rubber solutions should be stored in a separate room, and the administrative regulations on the storage and handling of inflammable liquids must be observed.

DEFORMATION



Products should be stored in a relaxed condition, free from tension, compression or other forces causing permanent distortion.

ROTATION OF STOCKS

Storage time for never-mounted tires, wheels or RunFlats is to be minimized, and an appropriate First In – First Out (FIFO) procedure should be implemented to minimise the life spent in storage.

TIRE STORAGE METHODS

Tires can be stored in an upright position in a single layer on shelf racks. Tires can also be stored interlaced (fishbone) as well as stacked horizontally (stovepipe) one on top of another, but in this case the height of the stacks or interlacing should be limited to avoid permanent deformation of the tires on the bottom layers, as well as any stability issues.

When fitted on rims, tires should preferably be stored inflated in an upright position or in a single layer on shelf racks. Tires can also be stacked horizontally (stovepipe) one on top of the other, but in this case the height of the stacks should be limited to avoid any stability issues.

TRANSPORT CONDITIONS

All of the above storage methods apply equally to transport. When wheels, tires and RunFlats must be transported in closed containers which are not air-conditioned, the duration of storage should be limited as much as possible to avoid potential degradation. In case of obvious visual tire deformation, time should be allowed for the tire to recover its original shape when inflated.

TIRE INFLATION & PRESSURE

It is strongly recommended that fitted tires which are to be stored should be inflated with nitrogen. If air is used, it must be as dry as possible before it enters the tire. Ensure that a valve cap is fitted to the valve.

- Tires on vehicles resting on the ground should be at the normal pressure for the vehicle. Every six months that pressure should be checked and corrected as necessary. Every four months the tires should be rotated ¼ turn. The tires should be driven for a distance every year until any 'flat spotting' disappears.
- Tires on vehicles suspended off the ground, and spare tires in storage, should be deflated to approximately half the normal pressure for the vehicle.
- A procedure must be established to ensure that tires which have been in storage at reduced pressure are correctly re-inflated when returned to service.
- Any tire which has been stored should be visually inspected by competent personnel before entering or re-entering service.