



Getting better gas mileage on nitrogen filled tires

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POSTED: Tuesday, May 18, 2004 7:11:16 PM

UPDATED: Tuesday, May 18, 2004 7:11:40 PM

MENTOR -- A well inflated tire can help you get better gas mileage, but now what you use to inflate the tire can also help with mileage.

The tires at Consumer Tire are some of the first in the area to get filled with nitrogen, not compressed air.

When the tires go back on the heavier nitrogen won't leak as much and that will keep tire pressure constant.

"The tires also run cooler because nitrogen tends to maintain a cooler temperature and tires that run cooler, they last longer and they get better gas mileage," said D.D. Coley of Consumer Tire.

To get that extra one or two miles a gallon it's a one-time cost of \$10 to inflate all four tires.

The system, which takes nitrogen from the air and stores it, costs \$8,000. That's making other tire dealers take a wait and see approach.

But NASA, commercial airlines, and auto racing haven't waited to use the nitrogen approach.

"They said Nascar does it too and that kinda sold me, y'know, \$10 to do that," said Frank Nichols.

For the average driver, the savings could be a few cents, but for anyone who drives for a living, big savings can add up quickly.

"Right now we spend an average of \$27,000 a year in fuel so anything to get extra mileage out of it, especially with gas prices, was a no-brainer," said Matt Starke of NAPA Auto Parts.

A no-brainer for everyone to save money if consumer tires mileage increase numbers are right.

"You're easily going to recoup that cost probably in a month, depending on how much you drive," said Coley.

In addition to Consumer Tire in Mentor, Terry's Tire Town in Stark County is also offering the nitrogen fill-ups.