

How to Choose a Road Bike Tire

By Allen Smith, eHow User



When it comes to choosing road riding accessories, none are more important than your tires. The right tire choice can not only keep you safe during your ride but can help you to get the most out of your expensive equipment.

Difficulty: Moderately Easy

Instructions

things you'll need:

- Internet Access
- Wheel Dimensions
- Quality Bike Shop

- 1** Determine how you'll be using your road bike before you buy your next set of tires. Are most of your rides short and around the neighborhood, or do you enjoy logging hundreds of miles at a time? Short rides don't require the same quality tire that long rides demand.
- 2** Measure your wheels to ensure that you're buying the correct tire size. Measure the circumference of the wheel by wrapping a cloth tape measure around the outside of the rim.
- 3** Buy "clincher" road tires if you want a durable, lightweight tire that will perform well on all types of road surfaces and in varying weather conditions. Clincher road tires represent the majority of tires sold and are characterized by a steel or kevlar "bead" that helps hold the tire onto the wheel rim.
- 4** Buy a "sew-up" or "tubular" tire if you need a lightweight tire that can be folded up and stored in the back of your riding jersey or inside the toolbag under your seat. Tubular bike tires are less prone to flats but require special rims and must be glued onto the rim.
- 5** Choose a tire tread with "knobbies" if you anticipate riding on dirt or uneven surfaces. The knobs help grip dirt, mud and offer the best traction when riding off of asphalt surfaces.
- 6** Buy "road slicks" if the majority of your rides are on smooth pavement. Slicks are lighter in weight, have superior traction and offer a smooth ride.
- 7** Opt for "combination tires" if you plan to ride on smooth dirt roads as well as pavement. Combination tires offer the best of both worlds: the durability and traction of a knobby tire with the weight of a road slick. Combination tires are typically smooth along the center of the tire, with knobs on the sides. The smooth surface provides a fast, efficient riding surface, while the knobs help the tire to stay on the road during cornering.

Tips & Warnings

- Do research on [the Internet](#) to find the best deals. Inflate the tires to the recommended pressure. Replace the tires at the first sign of wear.
- Never scrimp on tires. Buy good quality, name brands. Avoid using road tires on dirt roads and trails.