

Basic Tire Terms

Learning about tires begins with some terms and definitions that are commonly used in all aspects of the tire industry. Knowing and understanding these terms is the foundation for learning about tire sizing systems, sidewall nomenclature, and all the factors that affect tire performance.

- A Overall Diameter:** The diameter of the inflated tire without any load.
- B Tread Width:** The portion of the tread design which comes in contact with the road.
- C Section Width:** Linear distance between outside of sidewalls of inflated tire without any load.
- D Overall Width:** Maximum width in cross-section of unloaded tire including protruding side ribs and decorations.
- E Section Height:** Distance from rim seat to outer tread surface of an unloaded tire.
- F Nominal Rim Diameter:**
- G Axis of Rotation:**
- H Nominal Rim Width:**

Aspect Ratio: $\text{Section Height} / \text{Section Width} \times 100$