



REX IMPORT COMPANY

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Understanding Tyre Sizes

Knowing some basic facts about tyre dimensions and sizes along with a few technical aspects of tyre construction can help clear up much of the confusion for many people who have no understanding of tyres and tyre sizes. There are up to 14 parts to a tyre, and each one is subjected to different stresses and performance requirements. About 89% of a tyre is rubber compound. The remainder consists of 8.5% ply and belt materials, and 2.5% steel wire used in the bead. Understanding the sizing of tyres can be especially confusing. There are two popular methods of identifying lawn and garden tyres. The first is overall diameter x section width x rim diameter. An example of a popular tyre using these dimensions is a 16 x 650 - 8 tyre. The second popular method of designating tyre sizes includes section width x section height x rim diameter, for example 4.10/3.50-4. The section width and section height are also used to size car passenger tyres. For instance, a P205/75R14 tyre size is explained this way: the P stands for passenger car tyre; the 205 is the section width in millimeters; the 75 indicates the section height to section width ratio (%); the R stands for radial construction; and the 14 is the rim diameter in inches.

Some Definitions

BEAD: The inner portion of the tyre which fits onto the rim and contains bands of wire to which the tyre plies are attached.

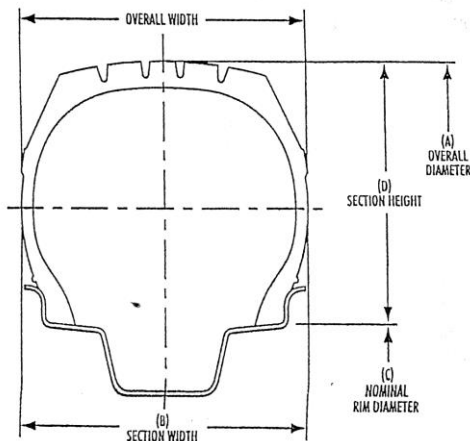
PLY RATING: Index of tyre strength; indicates maximum recommended load for specific types of service. Usually does not indicate actual number of cord plies in the tyre as it did in the past.

RIM DIAMETER: The distance between the vertical portion of the rim flange. If the rim is too wide or too narrow the tyre beads will not seat properly. As a general rule, the proper rim width for a tyre will be 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches narrower than the section width of the tyre, depending on the size of the tyre.

SECTION WIDTH: The distance across a tyre at its widest part when inflated but not under load (does not include protective bars or decorations).

SECTION HEIGHT: The distance between head crown and bead seat when tyre is inflated but not under load.

TYRE & RIM ASSOCIATION: An organization of manufacturers which develops standards for rim and tyre dimensions, loads and inflation pressures. The Tyre & Rim Association has set an acceptable variance of 8% from their published dimensions for tyre-size designations. Because of this variance it is always prudent to be aware of the possibility of tread and dimensional differences when replacing tyres. This becomes especially important when replacing tyres on equipment where tyre dimensions are critical to equipment performance.



Size	Typical Use
(A) (B) (C) 16 x 6.50 - 8	Lawnmowers
(B) (D) (C) 410 / 350 - 4	Industrial; Go Karts
(A) (B) 16 x 2.125	Bicycles
(B) (C) 400 - 17"	Motorcycles
(A) (B) (C) 16.5 x 6.50 - 8	Trailer