

AVOIDING FLAT SPOTS

In areas of extended high ambient temperature, vehicle tires can be affected by a softening of the tire sidewall. If the vehicle is stationary for long periods, the effect is to slightly deform the tire at the point where the tire meets the standing surface. This is known as a flat spot.

This is normal tire behavior. However, when the vehicle is subsequently driven, vibration may be experienced from the flat spot. The condition will steadily improve with additional mileage.

In order to minimize flat spotting, the tire pressures can be increased to the maximum, as stated on the tire sidewall. Tires must be returned to the specified running pressures before driving. See **191, TIRE PRESSURES**.

TIRE DEGRADATION

Tires degrade over time due to the effects of ultraviolet light, extreme temperatures, high loads, and environmental conditions. It is recommended that all tires, including the spare, are replaced at least every 6 years, but they may require replacement more frequently.