

# Tire Load Index & Speed Rating

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Understanding all the writing on the sidewall of a tire can be somewhat overwhelming at first glance. It helps to know what characters you are searching for in order to obtain the tire information you desire. For example, if the tire code was 225/45R17 75L, then 75 would signify the load index and L would signify the speed rating of the tire.

## Load Index

The load index tells you how many pounds a tire can safely carry. As you can see on the load index chart below, the 75 in the example above has been assigned a load carrying capacity of 853 lbs per tire. Multiply the load carrying capacity by the number of the tires on the trailer. As long as that sum is greater than or equal to the assigned GVWR of the trailer, then the tire's load index is sufficient for its application.

**Tire Load Index Chart**

Load Rating	(lbs.)	Load Rating	(lbs.)
71	761	91	1356
72	783	92	1389
73	805	93	1433
74	827	94	1477
75	853	95	1521
76	882	96	1565
77	908	97	1609
78	937	98	1653
79	963	99	1709
80	992	100	1764
81	1019	101	1819
82	1047	102	1874
83	1074	103	1929
84	1102	104	1984
85	1135	105	2039
86	1168	106	2094
87	1201	107	2149
88	1235	108	2205
89	1279	109	2271
90	1323	110	2337

## Speed Rating

Speed ratings are based on laboratory tests and were established to match the speed capability of tires. In the same tire code example stated previously, L would signify the tire speed rating. According to the attached chart, the speed rating for L is up to 75 mph. It has been proven under testing conditions, that tire can operate for a certain period of time up to 75 mph.

Motor vehicles should always be operated according to the speed limit of the roads they travel on. Never exceed the speed rating of the tow vehicle tires or the trailer tires; drive according to whichever rating is lower. Trailer tires commonly have tire speed ratings in the 65 – 75 mph range. Unless otherwise noted, the speed rating for trailer tires is 65 mph. ■

**Tire Speed Rating Chart**

Speed Rating	Up To: Miles per Hour
G	56
J	62
K	68
L	75
M	81
N	87
P	93
Q	99
R	106
S	112
T	118
U	124
H	130
V	149