

As with all safety devices there are lots of myths around who needs them and what they will do, so we spoke to Tyron's Technical Director Tony Glazebrook to ask him some of the questions our members have been sending in to us:

Tyron bands sound like a good idea, but it is difficult to find a tyre fitter who will change the tyre with them on. Can Tyron bands be fitted and removed yourself, or do you need a specialist?

Nearly all police forces in the UK use Tyron bands and the contract for managing their tyres has been held by a number of tyre manufacturers, all of whom should have the tools and expertise to change tyres with Tyron bands fitted. This contract is currently held with ATS Euromaster, but has previously been managed by Goodyear through the HiQ Tyrservices network, so any of these companies should have no problem with Tyron bands.

If you purchase a second hand caravan how can you tell whether there are Tyron bands fitted already?

When Tyron bands are fitted a sticker is placed next to the valve on the wheel - so if you look on your wheels this will indicate whether Tyron bands are already fitted. This is also helpful to a tyre fitter, as they won't be able to remove the tyre without removing the Tyron band and this sticker informs them that one is in place and to ask for the customer care kit with the allen key.

Are Tyron bands adjustable or do you have to buy them to the exact size of the tyre?

Tyron bands aren't adjustable; they are made to fit the width of the wheel, rather than the tyre. If you take your vehicle to a Tyron fitting centre they will take care of this for you and ensure that the correct size band is fitted for your unit.

If you buy a new caravan can you take the bands off and fit them to the new caravan, or is it best to start again with new ones?

Tyron bands will last the life of a caravan; they never wear out, so yes you could remove them and have them fitted to a new caravan when you change model, provided that it has the same size and make of wheels. It is generally easier to just buy new ones though, and leave the old ones on your caravan for its new owners - if you are upgrading with a dealer you could always ask them to do a deal and fit new bands for you.

Is the consequence of a blowout more to do with the speed you are travelling rather than the safety devices you have fitted?

The consequences of a blowout are a combination of weight, speed, tyre age and air pressure which all affect the tyre temperature, rather than just speed. Caravan Tyres normally deteriorate before they wear out due to age so it could happen in any condition - I have actually seen a blowout occur on a stationary vehicle.

Is it true that you don't need Tyron bands if you have a twin axle caravan?

There is some truth in this, as there is always the argument with a twin axle caravan that if you lose one wheel then you still have another to keep the caravan stable. The issue would be that if one of the wheels got a puncture then you may not be able to tell, yet all the weight of the caravan would be transferring onto the second wheel. This could cause a blowout due to the extra weight on the second wheel. With both tyres deflated you would definitely benefit from Tyron bands in this situation. If you aren't fitting Tyron bands to your twin axle caravan then you need to be extra vigilant checking your tyres so that issues such as punctures are picked up - if you are particularly safety conscious then to be on the safe side, still fit them.

Is it true that not all wheel rims need Tyron bands?

No, this isn't true. All wheel rims will benefit from having Tyron bands fitted.

Is it true that if you have a double wheel base you don't need them?

Yes, this is true. If you have a double wheel base then there is no need to fit Tyron bands (the only exception being on high-risk vehicles, such as police vans, that could be subjected to criminal damage such as being shot at).

