

Press Information

Take care when cleaning tyres with high-pressure device

Water Jet May Destroy Tyres

- Clean only from a distance and keep the nozzle moving at all times

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Stuttgart – Tests performed by tyre experts DEKRA show that tyres may be quickly and completely destroyed when cleaned using a high-pressure device unless particular care is taken.



A sharp water jet aimed at a certain point from a distance of four centimetres took only five seconds to inflict considerable tyre damage. This is due to the strong erosive effect from the impact of the water jet. High temperatures occur within the tyre material. This leads to the formation of rubber bubbles and reduced strength. When the tyre is subsequently exposed to a high level of stress, e.g. motorway driving, a much-dreaded tyre burst may occur, frequently with fatal consequences.



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High-pressure cleaning leads to tyre damage more quickly the shorter the distance between the nozzle and the tyre, the finer the water jet and the higher the water pressure. “It’s hard to imagine that cold water with a temperature of 14° can heat tyre rubber to such an extent”, says DEKRA tyre expert, Franz Nowakowski. The first signs of tyre damage are known as shadows. This is what experts call the points at which shining wet tyres immediately dry after being sprayed. This is because the rubber at these points has become extremely hot. According to the experts, the second sign of damage is bubbles at the sidewall of the tyre. If bubbles occur, the tyre must be replaced immediately. The tyre cannot be repaired.



Despite such risks, drivers and motorcyclists can still use high-pressure cleaning devices provided they follow three rules: Keep at least 20 cm between the lance spray head and the tyre and use a nozzle with the widest possible spray (spray angle: 20° to 45°). Even if tyres are particularly difficult to clean, keep the jet moving rather than focussing on a single point.