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The Motor Ombudsman highlights risks in buying part-worn tyres

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The Motor Ombudsman tells us:
(All words and photographs from them).

- **The Motor Ombudsman has launched its 'WORN-WARN' tyre safety campaign at the UK**

BEHIND EVERY WORN TYRE IS A WARNING

Garage & Bodyshop Event at the NEC, Birmingham

- **Backed by TyreSafe, the online and social media awareness drive is designed to showcase**

some of the main risks of motorists buying and fitting part-worn tyres to their vehicle

- **The new initiative comes in response to the latest study by The Motor Ombudsman, which**



found that nearly a third of UK adults would consider going second-hand if tyres needed

replacing

London, 03 June 2026 The Motor Ombudsman has unveiled its 'WORN-WARN' tyre safety campaign at

the UK Garage & Bodyshop Event at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre (NEC). The online and

social media awareness drive is designed to shine the spotlight on the risks of motorists buying and fitting

part-worn tyres - used tyres from another vehicle which carry an unknown history and potentially hidden

structural damage.

The launch of the latest initiative, backed by charity TyreSafe, comes in response to a survey of 2,000 UK

adults by The Motor Ombudsman, which found that nearly a third (31%) of those polled would consider

buying part-worn tyres if their vehicle's tyres needed replacing - a figure which rises to nearly half (47%)

amongst the 25 to 34 age group.

When asked about what the primary motives would be for those who would opt for second-hand tyres,



more than two-thirds (67%) explained that saving money compared to when buying new, would be front

and centre. The study equally revealed that cost-of-living pressures have made it more likely for around

nine in ten people (88%) to turn to second-hand purchases to make already-stretched household budgets

go even further.

Other key motivations cited by respondents for going down the route of part-worns was the fact that they

would offer a temporary solution until they could afford brand-new tyres (37%), whilst a similar proportion

(36%) explained that they would benefit from the convenience of used tyres often being immediately

available for fitting.

Sellers of part-worn tyres are subject to strict rules, including that they must be labelled as 'PART-WORN'

on the sidewall to clearly show their condition. Nevertheless, nearly half of prospective buyers (43%)

polled were unaware of this requirement, further reinforcing the dangers of the public buying such a critical

safety component without knowing to look out for this crucial stamp.



Similarly, for consumers considering buying a part-worn tyre, being able to read the 'Department of

Transport' (DOT) code on the sidewall - the equivalent of its 'date of birth' which shows the age of a tyre,

is just as essential, as it may appear in reasonable condition to the untrained eye, but at the same time be

beyond its intended lifespan. The research found however, that nearly seven in ten respondents (69%)

admitted to not knowing what the DOT code meant, and would likely take what was said by the seller at

face value.

Paul Brown (pictured below), General Manager of the Tyre Division at The Motor Ombudsman-accredited

Lindleys Autocentres garage group, and spokesperson for the 'WORN-WARN' campaign said: "As motorists

continue to face increasing financial pressures, it can be tempting to cut back on vital car maintenance, as

the recent Motor Ombudsman study has found. However, spending money on tyres should never be

compromised, and buying new at a reputable fitter should always be the first choice regardless of budget,



meaning consumers are not taking a gamble when it comes to a tyre's condition."

Paul added: "The 'WORN-WARN' campaign also provides garages and workshops, like ourselves, with a

brand-new suite of eye-catching assets and tools to help educate motorists on what to look out for when

buying and maintaining tyres - a subject that should not be overlooked."



Paul Brown.

Stuart Lovatt, Chair at TyreSafe - an organisation which has championed tyre safety for two decades,

explained: "Tyres are the only point of contact between a vehicle and the road, but millions of part-worn



tyres enter the market every year with an unknown history, hidden structural damage, or inadequate

inspection by either sellers or vehicle owners. They may appear great value on the surface, but they can

unfortunately compromise braking performance, increase the chance of blowouts, and put road users at

risk of serious harm.”

Stuart added: “We are delighted to be backing this valuable campaign by The Motor Ombudsman, which

works perfectly in tandem with our continued work in educating consumers about making informed and

safe choices, understanding the risks that used tyres can bring, and ultimately urging them to think twice

before cutting corners.”

This slideshow requires JavaScript.

To access The Motor Ombudsman’s new suite of resources on tyres, visit

TheMotorOmbudsman.org/Tyres

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automotive sector, and self-regulates the UK's motor industry through its comprehensive Chartered

Trading Standards Institute (CTSI)-approved Codes of Practice. Thousands of businesses, including

vehicle manufacturers, warranty product providers, franchised dealers and independent garages, are

accredited to one or more of the Codes, which drive even higher standards of work and service, and

give consumers added protection, peace of mind and trust during the vehicle purchase and ownership experience.

For more information on The Motor Ombudsman, visit www.TheMotorOmbudsman.org