

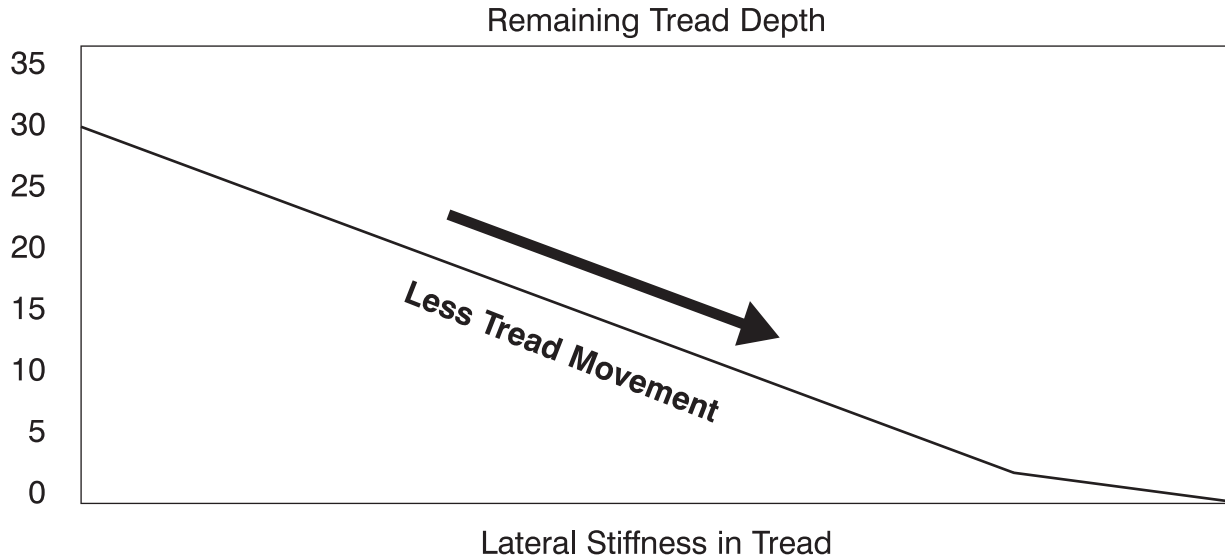
BRIDGESTONE Firestone

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Extra-Deep-Tread Tires' Lateral Stiffness Effects



Many drivers are aware of the feel of the trucks used on a daily basis in fleets, and are sometimes sensitive to the ride dynamics of fitment changes of new tire designs on the vehicle.

One of the sensations drivers notice is a side-to-side motion. This motion is the byproduct of what is commonly referred to as lateral stiffness.

The lateral stiffness of a tire is due in large part to inflation pressure, as well as the tire's tread depth. Both of these factors vary over time. Reduced inflation pressure and deeper tread depth results in lower lateral stiffness.

Therefore, some users may comment on experiencing a slight swaying with newly installed extra-deep-tread drive tires, especially under full load or after replacing worn drive tires.

The sensation the driver feels is the lateral stiffness effect of the extra-deep-tread drive tire compared to the worn tire being replaced and does not affect traction or warrant any concerns.

The lateral stiffness improves quickly as the tread wears and a driver will become accustomed to the initial difference in sensation.

BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH AMERICAN TIRE COMPANY, LLC
 Bridgestone Technical Hotline 1-800-847-3272