

Another Use for Infrared Thermometer

In our October 2016 *Blue Beret* article, we covered keeping an eye on heat build-up on your tires, wheels and hubs using an infrared thermometer. Since the article's publication, I received an email from a gentleman that has taken using his thermometer a step further. He uses the temperature readings to help with dialing in the correct tire pressures and loading of the RV by measuring the temps across the tire tread. I have not personally tried this, but it sounds interesting. Just thought it was worth sharing.

He says he has helped people with single axle trailers figure out the proper tire pressure for their trailer loaded the way they travel. After you have traveled long enough to get your tires warmed up, get out your thermometer and start verifying your temps. You use the infrared thermometer about an inch off the tread surface in several places in line from side to side across the tread. A high reading in the center indicated the tire is over inflated and running on the center of the tread. A higher reading on the edges of the tread indicates the tire is under inflated and cupping to run on the edges of the tread. You can also pick up poor wheel alignment if the tread is much hotter on one side compared to the other side across the face of the tread. Just another use of a tool to help make traveling hassle free. Thank you for the sharing! *It is always recommended having your trailer weighed so you know you are not overloaded and the cargo is properly distributed. This is in addition to your tires being properly inflated.*