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FLEET MAINTENANCE

NET NEW SAVINGS WITH NITROGEN

By **Sativa Ross**
Senior Editor

Tires inflated with a concentration of at least 95 percent pure nitrogen are scientifically proven to



deliver many benefits, including enhanced gas mileage, improved performance and handling and an increase in tread life.

They also require less maintenance than tires filled with compressed air. According to Ingersoll Rand, oxygen in compressed air can permeate the tire wall, which reduces tire pressure. With nitrogen — a dry, inert gas — diffusion is 30 to 40 percent slower than oxygen. As a result, nitrogen maintains tire pressure longer than ambient air.

Plus, Jay Lighter, president of Kreska Technologies, the distributor of NitroFill, says the use of nitrogen can improve gas mileage by as much as 6 percent — which is pretty good considering today's fluctuating gas prices and the demand service professionals put on their suppliers in terms of deliveries.

In 7 million miles of truck tire testing, nitrogen inflated tires lasted longer.

- Tire failures were reduced by 50 percent.
- Tread life was increased by 25 to 30 percent.
- The need for refilling was 30 to 40 percent less likely.

SOURCE: NITROFILL

Nitrogen has been used for years to increase performance in airplane tires, off-road truck tires, military vehicle tires and racecar tires. But its use within the automotive aftermarket, whether by jobbers or retailers with fleets, or tire and repair shops, is becoming more mainstream as many companies are providing programs that aren't weighted down with heavy costs. It may be time you investigate some of these options.

NitroFill offers a comprehensive tire inflation program designed to help those in parts distribution

embrace increased driving safety, cost savings and decreased maintenance for fleets. Lighter says the system is not expensive to maintain, though costs are required up-front for equipment. It also "comes with all the technical and training that would be necessary."

Ingersoll Rand also offers a fully packaged system that provides easy installation and service. Their website suggests all that's required is simple annual maintenance.

For more about these programs, log on to www.nitrofillnow.com or www.irtools.com/products/nitrogen/. ■

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