

CHARACTERISTICS OF TIRE MARKS

Definition: A mark made on a road or other surface by a tire on a vehicle.

	Skidmark	Yawmark	Accelerations Scuff	Flat Tire Mark	Imprint
WHEEL MOTION	Slide, no roll	Roll and side slip	Spin and slip	Roll, no slip	Roll, no slip
OPERATION	Braking	Steering	Speeding up	None	None
NUMBER FROM 4-TIRED VEH	Mostly 4 also 2, 3, 1	Mostly 2 Also 1, 3, 4	Usually 1 Sometimes 2	Only 1 Rarely 2	Mostly 1 Also 2, 3, 4
RIGHT & LEFT TIRES	Equally strong	Outside stronger	Equal if two	Rarely two	Usually equal
FRONT & REAR TIRES	Front stronger	Usually equal	Only driven wheels		Equally clear
WIDTH	If straight, same as tire	Varies from an inch to a foot	Same as tire	Tire tread edge marks	Same as tire
BEGINNING	Usually abrupt	Always faint	Strong or gradual	Always faint	Always strong
END	Usually abrupt	Strong	Very gradual	Strong	Usually gradual
STRIATIONS	Always parallel to mark	Always oblique or crosswise	Parallel to mark	None	Parallel to mark if any
OTHER DETAILS	Outer edges often stronger	Side rib marks may show	Outer edges often stronger	Outer edges always stronger	Thread design may show; Often broken
LENGTH	1-500 feet	10-200 feet	0.5-50 feet	50 feet - 10 miles	.05-50 feet