



Technical Tips

BRIDGING CAUSES TIRE REPAIR FAILURE

There are many reasons related to how a tire repair is installed that will cause it to fail. One common reason is - the full area of the repair is not making contact with the tire, or in other words, "bridging". This typically happens when a repair is applied in the shoulder of the tire in such a way that both ends of the repair make contact but the center of the repair does not. Because the damaged part of the tire is not supported, the repair will tear itself from the tire. Most often you can recognize this because the ends of the repair will show evidence of shearing - where the repair has torn (through force) from the tire.

There will be parts of gray gum left on the repair. The center portion of the repair (the part that has been bridged) will still have gray cushion gum and it may be shiny. Because this portion of the repair has not made contact with the tire it will not have made contact with the vulcanizing cement, often leaving the area of the repair that has been bridged, uncured.

To test this, take a ballpoint pen (with the tip in), and while twisting slightly, push it hard against the gray gum. If the tip leaves an impression on the gray rubber, it means the gum is still uncured and chances are the repair was bridged.