

## **Tire Tips When Storing Your Bike** submitted by Ken Wolf

Recently, I saw a question posted on the GWRRA website asking if it is recommended that plywood be placed under your tires to prevent them from resting on concrete during long periods of storage. I had heard this question before, but never the answer. So I contacted Consumer Relations at Michelin and asked them the question. Here is what they said.

There are no negative effects from tires resting on concrete for extended periods, as long as the floor is clean. Tires can be damaged from contact with petroleum based products, so make sure there are no chemicals, grease or oil on the floor. However, using jack stands to lift the vehicle and take the load off the tires is recommended. The tires do not have to be completely off the floor. Raising the vehicle just enough to relieve the load from the tires will help prevent distortion and flat spots. You may also want to inflate the tires to the maximum pressure as indicated on the sidewall, but remember that tires typically lose approximately one pound of pressure per month.

Another threat is exposure to ultraviolet radiation and ozone. Tires have chemicals in the rubber to protect them but this only works when the tires are rolling. As the moving tires warm-up and flex, chemicals are released keeping them soft and supple. Tires that are in storage for extended periods need to be protected from UV and ozone exposure. UV radiation comes from sunlight. If the vehicle is stored indoors, UV radiation should not be a problem. Ozone, which is a form of oxygen, comes from electric motors, so don't store your vehicle (or tires) near an electric motor. Also, do not weld near your tires as the electric arc generates ozone.