

Best and Worst Tire Retailers for 2026

From installation speed to hidden fees, these are the 10 tire shops that earned Consumer Reports' recommendation, based on our latest member survey

By Jeff S. Barlett

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Tires can be bought from a wide range of vendors, from big-box stores and online retailers to local tire shops. And while the tires themselves might be the same, the latest member survey from Consumer Reports shows that the tire-buying experience varies from retailer to retailer. That's why you should think as much about where you buy your tires as you consider which tires to buy.

Consumer Reports surveyed members who bought tires in the preceding 12 months and asked them about their overall satisfaction with purchasing and installing tires, as well as specific aspects of that experience. Over 24,500 members responded to the survey conducted in the fall of 2024.

"Most places will do at least an adequate quality installation and have at least acceptable sales help, which were the attributes that contributed the most to overall satisfaction," says Tess Yanisch, a senior research associate at CR. "But if you care about selection, the time it takes to install the tires, or the free perks a retailer might offer, the ratings table can help you identify the brands you want."

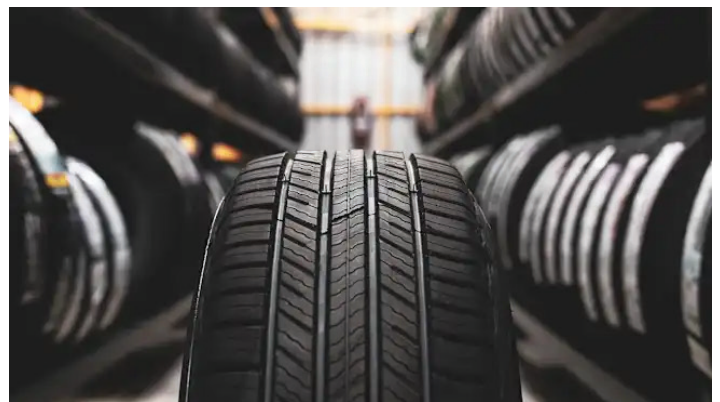
Most shoppers were very or extremely satisfied with their last tire purchase and/or installation. But satisfaction did vary, as reflected in the 40-point difference between the top- and bottom-rated retailers.

Ten name-brand retailers earned Consumer Reports' recommendation, setting them apart from the competition.

Nineteen retailers, including independent shops and car dealerships, provided a respectable or first-rate experience, while 13 were rated adequate. The lowest-ranked retailers were Mavis Discount Tire, Pep Boys, and Walmart Auto Care Centers—the same stores and ranking order as found in our previous survey.

At 70 points, car dealerships earned a strong Overall Score, making them a solid and convenient choice for many car owners.

When it comes to free perks, Costco, Dunn Tire & Auto, Les Schwab, and Sam's Club stood out for top



Tire buyers in CR's exclusive survey rate 30 retail chains, as well as independent shops and car dealerships.

Photo: Getty Images

or near-top marks. Many retailers received low ratings for free perks.

"The tire buying experience looks quite positive for most shoppers, based on our latest member survey," says Ryan Pszczolkowski, Consumer Reports' tire program manager. "But there are substantial differences in facets of the shopping experience that may drive customers to favor certain retailers. For instance, online retailers have a wide selection. Physical retail stores may be more limited, but they may be able to get what you want if you can wait."

Looking at the rating details, there are further distinctions, with notable variations in selections, installation time, and waiting area. Based on the ratings for model selection, and experience buying about 400 tires a year for testing, our tire experts recommend calling ahead or ordering tires online to save time.

"Most tire shops can get the model and size you need rather quickly," says Gordon Gingras, a tire technician at Consumer Reports. "Unless you need to immediately replace a flat, build a little time into your buying process. This gives you that option to choose a highly satisfying tire shop with good prices and perks, like free tire rotation, rather than buying from the retailer that happens to have the tire in stock."

1. Les Schwab Tire Centers



About the company: Founded in 1952, Les Schwab Tire Centers now has more than 600 locations across 15 states. In addition to selling and installing tires, Les Schwab Tire Centers offers battery, brake, and suspension services.

Store locations: Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

CR's take: Les Schwab Tire Centers is a 15-state regional chain that routinely tops our tire retailer ratings. In the latest survey, Les Schwab earns our only top-tier rating, with standout marks from surveyed customers for installation quality, sales service (the helpfulness of the sales staff), free perks (extras like free tire rotations), ease of checking out, and other services (like wheel alignment).

2. Point S Tire

About the company: Founded in 1983, Point S Tire partners with independent tire stores to create a network of retailers across the country, as well as on other continents. Currently, there are more than 400 Point S Tire shops in the U.S. Each location sells a wide range of tires, including models for commercial vehicles. Locations also offer traditional maintenance services, like battery replacement, brakes, coolant system, oil



change, engine tune-up, and transmission repairs.

Store locations: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming.

CR's take: In our latest survey, Point S Tire is just a single point behind the top-ranked retailer, with exemplary marks across several key categories. Beyond those ratings, Point S Tire stands out for having among the lowest purchase cost per tire, as reported in the survey.

3. Discount Tire

About the company: Founded in 1960, the Arizona-based Discount Tire has more than 1,250 stores in 40 states. It is owned by the Reinalt-Thomas Corporation, which also owns America's Tire, Dunn Tire & Auto, Ellisville Tire, Suburban Tire, and Tire Rack. Tirerack.com, an online marketplace, shares the same survey results and ratings as those for Discount Tire.



Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

CR's take: Discount Tire has a massive presence, with stores in most states and a robust online business. Their Treadwell tool helps match the tires to a vehicle based on how it will be driven and backed by the company's own test results and user reviews. Tire purchases include free rotation and balance, flat tire repair, inspection, tire pressure check, and tire pressure monitor check. These perks add value for customers. Plus, Discount Tire has among the lowest installation costs in our survey.

Store locations: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho,

4. Discount Tire Centers

About the company: Founded in 1975, the family-owned Discount Tire & Service Centers operates in California. Beyond tires and wheels, Discount Tire Centers offers alignment, battery replacement,



brake service, shocks and struts, and oil changes.

Store locations: California, serving primarily the Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties.

CR's take: In our survey, Discount Tire Centers earns top marks for sales service, checkout ease, ease of making an appointment, and shipping. Its average cost per tire is among the lowest in our survey. This is no surprise: It guarantees it will beat any advertised price, states that its quotes are the price you pay, and backs sales with a 30-day or 500-mile guarantee.

5. Dunn Tire & Auto

About the company: Founded in 1973, Dunn Tire & Auto is now owned by the Reinalt-Thomas Corporation, which also owns Discount Tire. Dunn Tire & Auto operates 26 retail locations in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Beyond tire services,



Dunn shops perform basic car maintenance, such as brake repairs, oil changes, engine diagnostics, and state inspections.

Store locations: Central New York, northern Pennsylvania, and western Virginia.

CR's take: Dunn Tire & Auto is the only retailer in our latest survey to earn favorable or very favorable marks in every category that was rated. Its online configurator easily matches available tires to your car, and it provides an out-the-door price. The tires come with a 30-day return policy.

6. Fountain Tire

About the company: In 1956, Bill Fountain opened the first Fountain Tire store in Wainwright, Alberta. Today, the company has over 165 stores spanning from British Columbia to Ontario, operating in a 50/50 partnership with local store owners. It



sells tires from Cooper, Dunlop, Goodyear, Kelly, Kumho, and Sailun, plus replacement wheels, basic maintenance services, and inspections.

Store locations: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Yukon, Canada.

CR's take: Fountain Tire earns top scores from Consumer Reports members for sales service, checkout ease, appointment availability, and ease of making appointments. Selection is given a middling rating, reflecting the retailer's focus on primarily Goodyear and its related brands.

7. Sullivan Tire

About the company: New England-based Sullivan Tire and Auto Service was founded in 1955. Today, it has retail, commercial truck, wholesale, and lift servicing divisions with over 100 locations combined. This employee-owned business sells tires from a wide variety of brands and offers basic car maintenance services, such as alignment, battery replacement,



check-engine light diagnostics, headlight restoration, and oil changes.

Store locations: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

CR's take: Sullivan Tire gets top marks in our survey for sales service, ease of making appointments, and most notably, for having desired models in stock. (Only one other retailer matches the rating for models in stock.) For New Englanders, this CR Recommended tire retailer is a smart choice. Plus, Sullivan Tire provides a nationwide warranty on its maintenance and repair services, which applies to customers who travel or may relocate.

8. Costco

About the company: The precursor to Costco, Price Club, started in 1976. The first Costco warehouse opened in Seattle in 1983. Today, Costco offers replacement tires to its members at most locations nationwide. Pricing includes installation, as well as free tire balancing and rotations, inflation checks, nitrogen,



flat tire repairs, and a five-year road hazard warranty.

Store locations: Costco is located in 47 states. (It does not have stores in Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Wyoming.)

CR's take: Tire selection may be limited compared with some other tire retailers, but Costco does offer models from major brands, including BFGoodrich, Bridgestone, Firestone, Michelin, and Pirelli. Plus, it sells Interstate batteries and Velox wheels. Survey respondents praise installation quality, sales service, free perks, installation time, checkout ease, appointment availability, and other services.

9. OK Tire

About the company: OK Tire was founded in 1953 when a group of independent tire shops came together to expand the selection and service they could offer their customers. Today, OK Tire is the largest independent tire and auto service retailer in Canada, with over 325 locations spanning the country, each independently owned and operated. It offers tires for cars, commercial vehicles, ATV/UTVs, golf cars, lawn



equipment, RVs, and trailers. Beyond tires, OK Tire shops offer replacement wheels, brake service, oil changes, engine tune-ups, and vehicle diagnostics.

Store locations: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, Canada.

CR's take: OK Tire gets adequate or higher scores in all categories in our survey, except for free perks. However, its website neatly gathers rebates from tire companies, making it easy for customers to save money. This Canadian retailer offers tires from Blackhawk, Bridgestone, Continental, Cooper, Firestone, and Toyo. Its work is backed by a 12-month, 20,000-kilometer North American warranty.

10. America's Tire

About the company: America's Tire is another company also operated by Discount Tire, under the Reinalt-Thomas Corporation. Started in 1991, America's Tire provides the same services as Discount



Tire, just with a different name in some areas.

Store locations: California, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

CR's take: This recommended retailer mirrors Discount Tire's offerings and has a matching website. Depending on your location, the site will change from one retailer brand to another. Each offers a massive selection of tires, wheels, and accessories, backed by robust product selector tools, user ratings, and detailed information. Both sites prominently display current discounts.

What About Local, Independent Retailers?

Local tire retailers can be a great place to buy replacement tires, according to our survey. This group fell near the top of the ratings list, just after Les Schwab.



Independent tire retailers are the local shops that may be stand-alone businesses or part of a small group with multiple locations. These stores tend to be homegrown and known throughout their local community. Without backing from a large corporation, these shops

survive based on their service and reputation. You can find the best ones by word of mouth and checking Google reviews.

CR's take: In general, customers give the experience at an independent tire shop a higher overall satisfaction rating than all other retailers, except for Les Schwab and Point S. Independent shops earn top marks for installation quality, sales service, ease of checking out, appointment availability, ease of making appointments, and installation time—a factor that stands out as a distinct advantage. If you're deciding between an independent tire shop and a national chain, consider pricing, convenience, free perks, and whether warranty protections serve your needs during travel or if you relocate.