

Best Tire Brands, Tested and Ranked

Consumer Reports evaluated hundreds of tires from dozens of major tire manufacturers. Discover which brands make the best performers.

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Photo: John Powers/Consumer Reports

When it comes to buying new tires, choosing the right brand and model is essential to keep you and your passengers safe. With dozens of manufacturers competing for your business—from household names like Continental, Goodyear, and Michelin to budget-friendly alternatives—knowing which tire brands deliver the best combination of safety, performance, and overall value can accelerate your replacement tire shopping.

To determine the best tire brands, Consumer Reports put thousands of individual tires through rigorous independent testing at our Auto Test Center. We rated every major brand across key safety and performance evaluations, including wet braking, emergency handling, hydroplaning resistance, and winter traction.

“The best tires shine for impressive braking, handling, and hydroplaning resistance. For all-season and winter tires, snow traction and stopping on ice are important in our scores,” says Ryan Pszczolkowski, Consumer Reports’ tire program manager. “And the best brands are those whose tires consistently shine in those areas.”

To steer you in the right direction when choosing replacement tires, we analyzed test results from more than 100 models, then rated 18 brands that we tested four or more models from. (We tested tires

from a total of 28 brands.) The final result is based on the average Overall Score for the tested tires.

“The top brands can be a great place for shoppers to start,” says Gordon Gingras, an automotive engineer at Consumer Reports. But he recommends checking the specific tire ratings per category because they reveal not only the best-performing model but also how tires perform in each test. That way, you can find the models that shine in the areas that matter most to you.

The tires, whose scores were rolled into brand scores, come from these categories: all-season tires; ultra-high-performance (UHP) all-season and UHP summer tires; all-season SUV tires; all-season and all-terrain truck tires; winter/snow car and truck tires; and performance winter/snow tires.

Our definitive tire brand rankings reveal which manufacturers consistently top our ratings charts. We then spotlight the Consumer Reports’ recommended tire models from the top five brands.



We perform braking tests at a local skating rink to ensure consistent conditions for evaluating ice traction.

Photo: John Powers/Consumer Reports

How CR Ranks Tire Brands

Our tests measure performance in braking, comfort, handling, hydroplaning (when water gets between the tire and the pavement), noise, snow traction, and other important areas. We test braking on ice at a

local skating rink (shown above), and an outside lab assesses rolling resistance, which affects fuel economy. Plus, we evaluate tread life by driving thousands of miles on a road course in western Texas and use that information to predict tread life.

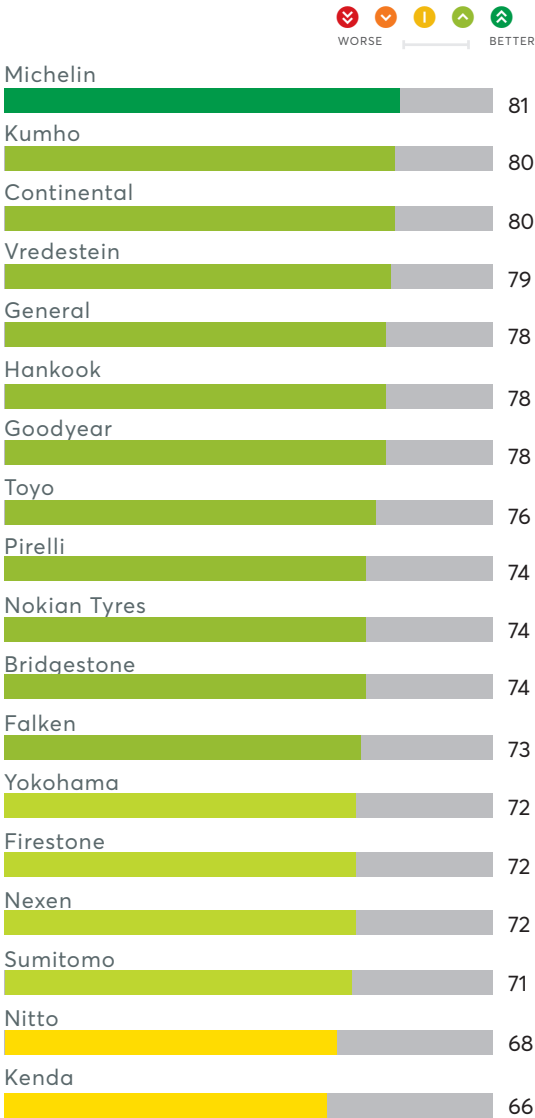
Combined, this extensive information can help you find the best tires from 28 tested brands, including BFGoodrich, Bridgestone, Continental, Cooper, Falken, Firestone, General, Goodyear, Hankook, Kumho, Michelin, Nexen, Nitto, Nokian Tyres, Pirelli, Sumitomo, Toyo, Vredestein, and Yokohama.

A tire must excel at performance and safety in our tests to earn a Consumer Reports recommendation, a distinction noted in our dynamic tire ratings chart.

CR Ranks Best Tire Brands

In our latest ranking of 18 brands, top-tier names like Continental and Michelin face challenges from value-driven brands like General, Hankook, and Kumho.

Consumer Reports' Best Tire Brands



No. 1: Michelin. Score: 81

Michelin is at or near the top of most tire categories we test—though not all. Typically, Michelin models offer a good mix of grip and handling. And even though Michelins are often among the most expensive tires, they tend to be a good value when factoring in performance. All seven tested models earn a Consumer Reports recommendation. A standout is the Michelin CrossClimate2, an all-weather tire that provides winter traction without needing to be removed when the snow season ends. It's in the all-season SUV category, but it's also suitable for cars. Other standout Michelin tires include the Defender2 all-season tire and the Pilot Sport All-Season 4 ultra-high-performance tire.



Michelin CrossClimate2
Photo: John Powers/Consumer Reports

Recommended Michelin Tires

- **All-season:** Defender2 and Primacy Tour A/S
- **All-season SUV:** CrossClimate2
- **All-terrain Truck:** Defender LTX M/S 2
- **UHP all-season:** Pilot Sport All-Season 4
- **UHP summer:** Pilot Sport 4s
- **Winter/snow:** X-Ice Snow
- **Performance winter/snow:** Pilot Alpin PA4

No. 2: Kumho. Score: 80



Kumho Road Venture AT52
Photo: John Powers/Consumer Reports

Recommended Kumho Tires

- **All-season:** Solus TA51A
- **All-season truck:** Road Venture HT
- **All-terrain truck:** Road Venture AT52
- **UHP all-season:** Ecsta Sport A/S PA71
- **UHP summer:** Ecsta Sport S PS72 & Ecsta Sport PS72

No. 3: Continental. Score: 80

All six tested Continentals earned a Consumer Reports recommendation, with several being ranked in the top three for their category. The brand had a particularly strong showing in the ultra-high-performance, UHP summer, and winter/snow categories.



Continental TerrainContact H/T
Photo: John Powers/Consumer Reports

Recommended Continental Tires

- **All-season:** Continental TrueContact Tour 54
- **All-season SUV:** CrossContact LX25
- **All-season truck:** TerrainContact H/T
- **UHP all-season:** ExtremeContact DWS 06 Plus
- **UHP summer:** ExtremeContact Sport 02
- **Winter/Snow:** VikingContact 7

No. 4: Vredestein. Score: 79

Although the name may not be familiar yet to many shoppers in the U.S., Vredestein is among the world's oldest tire manufacturers. This European company has been building tires for more than a century, and it shows. All six tested Vredestein models are recommended. Further, Vredesteins rank among the top three tires in all-season, all-season SUV, and performance winter/snow categories.



Vredestein HiTrac
Photo: John Powers/Consumer Reports

Recommended Vredestein Tires

- **All-season:** Quatrac Pro+
- **All-season SUV:** HiTrac
- **All-season truck:** Pinza HT
- **UHP all-season:** HyperTrac All Season
- **UHP summer:** Ultrac Pro
- **Performance winter/Snow:** Wintrac Pro

No. 5: General. Score: 78

Founded in 1915, General Tire is now a division of Continental AG. In our tests, the brand has become synonymous with value. General models are typically strong performers that deliver good performance for the money. We recommend all six tested tires. The highest-ranked models in their categories are the Grabber HT (all-season truck) and Grabber Actic X (winter/snow truck), both among the top four tires.



General Altimax RT45
Photo: John Powers/Consumer Reports

Recommended General Tires

- **All-season:** Altimax RT45
- **All-season truck:** Grabber HT
- **UHP summer:** G-Max RS
- **UHP all-season:** General G-Max AS-07
- **Winter/Snow:** Altimax Arctic 12
- **Winter/snow truck:** Grabber Arctic X