



Checking for Lateral Imbalance

If you have a wide, low profile tire, you should check to see if any of the tires have a lateral imbalance. There are two ways to do this.

If there are no weights on the tires now:

1. Spin the tires on a balancing machine using the standard inside/outside configuration, and see how much weight goes on the inside versus how much on the outside.
2. If the proportion of inside to outside varies, you have a lateral imbalance, and may have to use a combination of weights and beads. The more it varies, the worse this condition is, and the more likely it is that this tire will cause “shaking” if you run with no weights.

If there are weights on the tires now, and they are placed on both sides:

If the proportion of inside to outside varies, you have a lateral imbalance, and may have to use a combination of weights and beads. See #2 above.

If there are weights on the tires now, but they are only on the inside:

This method is highly inaccurate, but is popular when the dealer or owner does not want to place any weights on the outside, where they can be seen. Unfortunately, this method totally masks the true imbalance condition of the tire, and any lateral imbalance condition of the tire is impossible to determine.

In any case, take a felt pen and make a mark on the rim where the weight is located, write down what went there, and carefully pull them off. Install the beads and take it for a ride. If you feel shaking, then reinstall the weights on the wheels where the weights varied the most from inside to outside.

Do the fronts first, then the rears.