

Blue Ridge Automotive - European & Domestic Reads Tire Date Codes for Decatur's Low-Mileage Drivers

NHTSA names low annual mileage and southern climates as the tire aging risk group. Tread depth alone does not catch it in a city as walkable as Decatur.



BLUE RIDGE
A U T O M O T I V E

Blue Ridge Automotive Logo

DECATUR, GA, UNITED STATES, August 18, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Decatur drivers who put relatively few miles on their vehicles face a tire safety issue that tread depth measurements cannot detect. [Blue Ridge Automotive - European & Domestic](#) is checking DOT date codes at its Decatur location, because federal guidance identifies calendar age rather than wear as the governing factor for a meaningful share of vehicles in walkable communities.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states through its TireWise program that tires become more prone to failure as they age, and that some vehicle and tire manufacturers recommend replacement at six to ten years from the date of manufacture regardless of treadwear. NHTSA identifies the at-risk population plainly: owners of vehicles that are not driven regularly, or whose annual mileage is low. The agency further notes that tire aging is a greater concern in the more southern portions of the Sun Belt states, a category that takes in all of Metro Atlanta.

Decatur matches that description more closely than most of the region. The city holds a Gold-level Walk Friendly Community designation and maintains more than 60 miles of sidewalks within 4.7 square miles. Three MARTA rail stations sit inside city limits. Census survey figures put the share of Decatur commuters who drive to work at 61.7 percent, with 5.3 percent using public transit, 3.1 percent walking, and 0.6 percent cycling. A household that walks to the Square on weeknights, takes MARTA downtown for work, and drives mainly on weekends can reach the six-year threshold with most of the original tread still on the tire.

Reading the age of a tire requires locating the DOT Tire Identification Number molded into the sidewall. The last four digits give the week and year of manufacture, so a code ending in 1922 indicates the nineteenth week of 2022. NHTSA cautions that the number may appear on only one side of the tire, which means a technician sometimes has to inspect the inner sidewall or

turn the wheel to find it. Spare tires draw separate attention, because they are seldom replaced and are frequently older than the four tires carrying the vehicle.

Technicians at Blue Ridge Automotive - European & Domestic pair the date code with a physical assessment covering sidewall cracking, bead and shoulder condition, and indications of internal separation that a tread gauge cannot register. Findings are presented with a written estimate before any work begins. The Decatur shop holds RepairPal Certification, which requires outside assessment of technician training and customer satisfaction rather than self-reporting, and every repair carries a 24-month, 24,000-mile nationwide warranty on parts and labor through TECHNET Professional.

"A tire can pass a tread depth check and still be nine years old," said a company spokesperson for [Blue Ridge Automotive - European & Domestic in Decatur, GA](#). "The date code is the only thing that tells you which one you are looking at."

The Decatur location serves Oakhurst, Winnona Park, Kirkwood, Medlock Park, Scottdale, East Lake, and surrounding DeKalb County communities, and was voted a 2022 Neighborhood Favorite by Nextdoor members. Drivers can request a tire date code check online or by calling the Decatur shop directly at (404) 549-9424. Blue Ridge Automotive - European & Domestic operates Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

[About Blue Ridge Automotive - European & Domestic](#)

Blue Ridge Automotive - European & Domestic is a RepairPal Certified, multi-location auto repair shop serving the Metro Atlanta region with locations in Decatur, Buckhead, Chamblee, and Marietta. The shop services Asian, Domestic, and European vehicles and backs all repairs with a 24-month, 24,000-mile nationwide warranty through TECHNET Professional. For appointments, visit <https://blueridgeauto.co/car-repair-shop-decatur-ga/> or call (404) 549-9424.

Media Contact

Blue Ridge Automotive - European & Domestic

Decatur Location: 803 Church St, Decatur, GA 30030, United States

Phone: (404) 549-9424

Website: <https://blueridgeauto.co/car-repair-shop-decatur-ga/>

Josh Underwood

Blue Ridge Automotive (Decatur)

+1 (404) 549-9424

teamdecatur@blueridgeauto.co

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