

TIRE

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SIDEWALL INDENTATIONS IN RADIAL TIRES



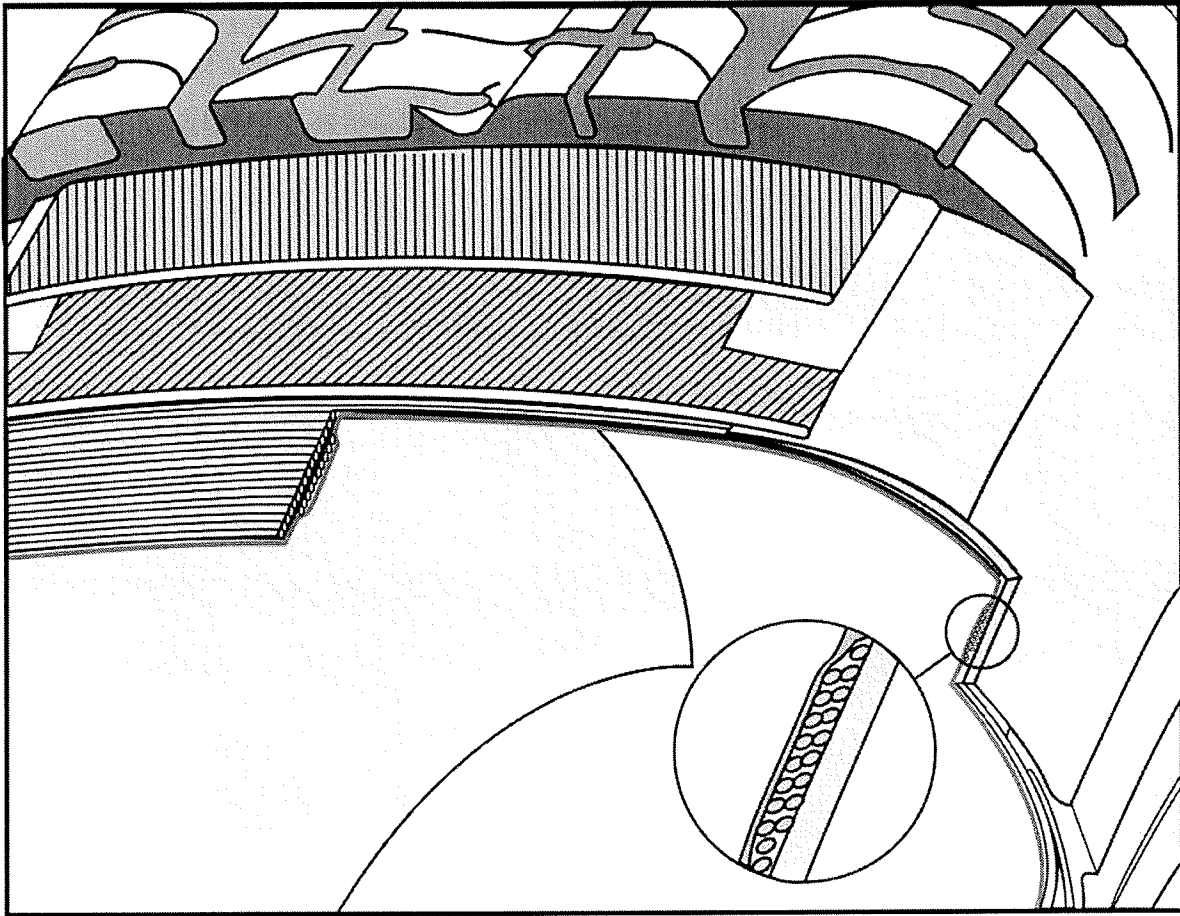
The condition, sometimes referred to as sidewall undulations, is a common characteristic of radial tire construction (see photo). These indentations are more noticeable in larger/wider radial-ply tire sizes and become more visible with higher inflation pressures.

In a radial tire the body ply cords run straight across the tire from bead to bead. Because of the "straight across" constructions, the joining of the ply material creates a narrow overlap of ply cords in the radial direction at each junction. These overlapped ply cords slightly restrict the natural expansion of the sidewall when inflated. This results in an indentation. Since all radial tires contain belts, which restrict the tread and keep it flat, only the sidewalls are indented.



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Sidewall indentations are purely a visual characteristic and will not affect the performance of the tire. If bulges, rather than indentations, appear on the sidewall or if there is any question concerning the sidewall appearance, the tire should be removed from service. A knowledgeable tire dealer or the manufacturer's representative should be contacted.