

Tire Inflator

Depending on the features of your tire inflator you may have more options than a basic inflator, like a built in gauge or faster fill rate or an automatic setting and auto shut off but the basics of filling a tire are standard regardless of how many other features you have.

1. Check your owner's manual or the inside of the driver's door (on the frame) to determine the recommended PSI for your vehicle.
2. Use your tire pressure gauge to perform a cold reading on your tires, once you have determined your tire pressure and know which of your tires need air you also have an idea of how much they need.
3. Take out your tire inflator, plug it into the 12-volt outlet and turn it on to make sure it's operational.
4. Remove the valve stem cap on the tire and keep it somewhere safe as it keeps the valve clean and free of debris, damage to the stem can cause a leak or expensive repairs to the tire. Only remove one cap at a time and keep it on the valve until you are ready to pump air.
5. Hold the inflator hose firmly and attach it to the valve once you've removed the cap. Some inflators have a threaded nozzle for you to attach to the valve, this helps prevent air leaks and also helps you not have to hold the nozzle tight to the valve the entire time the pump is operating. If you hear hissing chances are that you don't have a tight seal between the valve and nozzle. Check for damage to the inflator, valve or nozzle if you can't get the hissing to stop you may have a leak in the tire and will need to have it repaired or replaced.
6. Depending on how low the pressure is in your tires you may have to periodically check your pressure during the process to ensure you are not over-inflating or that you don't have a leak preventing your tire from holding air. If you've accidentally over inflated your tire, don't drive on it yet, instead release some of the excess air either by using the bleed valve on your tire gauge or a tool pressed against the valve.
7. Once you've achieved the ideal PSI reading replace the valve stem cap tightly and you're ready to repeat the process on your other tires. If your tires are just 1-2 PSI off from ideal take the time to top them all off to the ideal amount it will ensure optimal fuel efficiency, reduce extra tire wear and provide a smoother driving experience.

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