

SKID STEER TIRE OPTIONS - THE BREAKDOWN

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Introduction

There are a variety of skid steer tire options available, in both air-filled, and solid versions. Picking the best tire for your needs will help you to maximize the benefits of these tires.

Let's take a look at the different types of skid steer tires and the benefits of each so that you can determine which is the best for your skid steer's use case.



Air-Filled or Solid?

Air-filled tires are cheaper to purchase upfront but come with several drawbacks that decrease the benefits of that decreased cost. Most importantly from a cost perspective is that air-filled tires do not last as long as their solid counterparts. A solid skid steer tire can last three to five times longer than an air-filled tire.

This leads to a decreased cost over time as tires need to be replaced less frequently compared to the short-term cost savings of the air-filled tires.

The main reason people prefer solid tires over air-filled tires is that solid tires are puncture resistant. When you are on the job site, a flat tire can significantly slow down your productivity, and as a result, cut into your profits. Solid tires are a great insurance policy to ensure that flat tires do not bring your workers to an unexpected halt.

To Foam Fill or Not to Foam Fill?

Some people choose foam-filled skid steer tires over solid tires when puncture resistance is needed. There are several drawbacks to this method of reducing punctures though. The extra stiffness causes a loss of traction and results in a much bumpier ride for the vehicle operator.

In addition, the foam adds additional weight to the tire that increases the stress put on the skid steer's drivetrain. For these reasons as well as the increased cost and reduced serviceability that comes along with foam-filled tires, we do not recommend this option for your skid steer over the solid tire alternatives.

Which Tread is Best for You?

Skid steer tires come in a variety of tread types to match the terrain the skid steer will be operating on. Let's take a look at some of the different tread types available so you can decide which fits your use case the best.

1) All-Terrain Tire - If the majority of your work is done on dirt, with a little mud or rocks thrown in, then all-terrain tires will suit you best. Their tread patterns are designed to give good traction on soft surfaces.



2) Hard Surface Tire - A lot of extra wear is put on a tire when it has to drive over hard surfaces. If your worksites consist of asphalt, concrete, or other hard surfaces, then the specialized tread of a hard surface tire will increase the lifespan of your tires while still maintaining some traction.



3) Smooth Tires - When even greater wear protection is required, smooth tread tires answer the call. The smooth tread of these tires maximizes the rubber contact to the ground and disperses the load over a greater area, resulting in longer tire life.



4) Mud Tires - Mud is an especially soft surface to have to drive in and as such can make it very difficult to maintain traction. Tires designed for use in the mud have extra deep treads to help grip into the mud and increase traction. These tires though will wear quickly in hard surface applications.



5) Turf Tire - Landscaping is a common use for skid steers. When driving frequently over meticulously manicured lawns and grass surfaces, you'll want to minimize the damage that your vehicle does to them. Turf tires are not very good for other surfaces, but they will help protect grass from the potentially destructive nature of your machine.



Conclusion

As you can see, there are plenty of options available when shopping for tires for your skid steer loader. Because these machines operate in such a wide variety of conditions, it is important to match the tire you choose to the unique operating conditions that your skid steer works under.

For more information about solid tire tread patterns and product details visit

www.evolutionwheel.com

