

ADDING SEALANT TO MTB TUBELESS TIRES



a Library Survival Guide

TOPPING UP SEALANT

If you simply want to top off the sealant in your tires with some fresh sealant, it's pretty easy:





1) REMOVE VALVE CORE

Deflate tire and remove the valve core using a valve core remover.

2) PUSH SEALANT THRU VALVE STEM

Using a containter with a nozzle or with a rubber tube, carefully squeeze sealant into the tire through the valve.





How much sealant? Some Durango mechanics recommend only 2ozs in any mtb tire. Usually, manufacturers' recommendations are printed on the bottle. For example, for 29ers, 2.0"-2.2", use 3-4 ozs.; for larger diameters use up to 7-ish ozs. For 27.5, 2.0"-2.4" use 3-4ozs. For larger diameters use up to 8 ozs.

3) JUMP TO "REPLACING SEALANT" STEP 8 TO FINISH

REPLACING SEALANT

If you suspect that the old sealant has formed useless chunky booger balls inside your tire and you need to replace whatever is in your tire with fresh sealant:



1) REMOVE THE TIRE FROM RIM

Deflate your tire and and carefully remove the tire from the rim by using tire levers.



When removing or installing a tire, pushing the bead of tire into rim well will allow a critical amount of slack in the tire to lift it off the rim!

2) SET ASIDE REUSABLE SEALANT

If the existing sealant is still good, try to preserve it by carefully pouring it out of tire into a container. (You will want a container that allows you to then pour sealant into an applicator bottle with minimal spills!)





3) CLEAN THE RIM AND TIRE

Douse a rag with isopropyl alcohol and clean inside of rim. Check condition of rim tape--replace as necessary.

Clean inside of tire with soapy water and a rag or sponge. Scrape out sealant chunks if necessary.







4) REINSTALL TIRE ON RIM

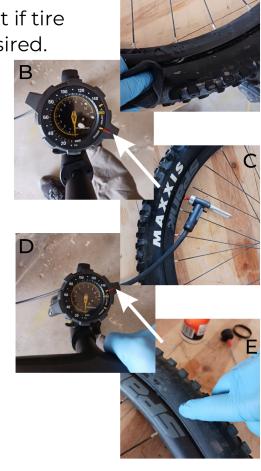
Install one bead first, then the other, making sure valve is inside both beads! If it becomes difficult to stretch bead over rim, ensure whatever bead is already on rim is sitting in 'rim well'.

5) DRY SEAT THE TIRE

Dry seating the tire allows you to seat the tire on the rim without making a mess of your tire sealant if tire doesn't seal properly. Remove valve core if desired.

A. Apply soapy water to the sidewall and bead of tire with a spray bottle, soapy rag or sponge to lubricate tire.

- B. 'Charge' the Joe Blow pump compressor chamber to 160psi.
- C. Lock pump head on tire valve.
- D. Switch Joe Blow pump to 'Inflate' and listen for glorious popping sounds as tire bead snugs into place.
- E. Inspect tire seam for even tire seating and apply soapy water to find air leaks, including at the valve!







6) REMOVE VALVE CORE

Deflate tire and remove the valve core--if you haven't already--using a valve core remover.

7) PUSH SEALANT INTO VALVE

Using a container with a nozzle or with a rubber tube, carefully empty sealant into the tire through valve.





8) REINSTALL VALVE CORE AND PUMP UP TIRE

Thread the valve core back into valve stem and tighten gently with valve core remover. Pump up tire to desired pressure.

9) SLOSH SEALANT AROUND TIRE

Using both hands, rotate wheel in all orientations and bounce on ground--envision coating entire inside of tire and rim with sealant!





10) REAPPLY SOAPY WATER

Apply soapy water to sidewall along rim and on valve stem looking for bubbling indicative of air escape. Slosh sealant inside tire to bubbly spots to seal them!

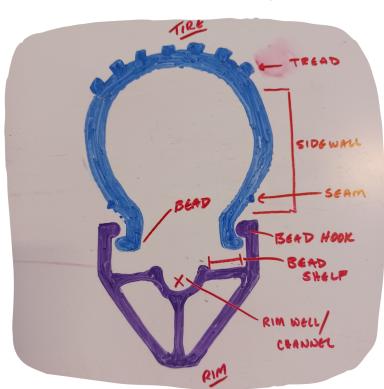
APPENDIX AYE!



CROSS-SECTION OF RIM AND TIRE

A tire is seated when the tire beads snug up beneath the rim's bead hooks.

One way you can tell if the tire is seated properly is to observe that the tire seam is equally parallel to the rim throughout the entire circumference of the tire on both sides!





How often do you need to add sealant to your tire? It depends on how much you ride, how many punctures you get, temps, and humidity. If you let your bike sit for long periods of time, the sealant will pool and solidify faster.

Some sealant manufacturers say that if you ride 1-2 times a week the sealant will last the life of your tire. Others recommend adding or replacing sealant every 2-6 months. Shake the wheel and listen--if you hear sloshing, you're good to go!

