

# OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

## Are Spare Tires Required?

June 22, 2021

*Not necessarily*

Today's new vehicles come with a wide variety of standard features and available options. However, a spare tire might not be one of them. Surprised?

There can be different reasons for not including a spare. Manufacturers may be trying to find ways to improve fuel efficiency, save space or reduce manufacturing costs, leading to higher profits.

MD Code, [Transportation, § 22-405.3](#) requires a new vehicle sold in the State to be equipped with a spare tire unless the tire-wheel system of the vehicle provides a run-flat capability, or the vehicle is equipped with a temporary tire repair and inflation system. The temporary tire repair and inflation system may be in the form of an inflator kit.



If you purchased your vehicle in Maryland and it does not have a spare tire, make sure that it has one of these other options. Recently, due to supply shortages, 301 Maryland consumers did not receive their tire inflation kits. The Office of Consumer Protection worked with the manufacturer to provide consumers the kits. If you're not sure whether your car has the required equipment, you should contact the dealer or the manufacturer.



### *Ensuring Integrity in our Marketplace*

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If you have any questions or concerns about any consumer transaction, or would like to mediate a dispute for free, please contact the Office of Consumer Protection.

100 Maryland Avenue  
Suite 3600  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Main: 240.777.3636  
Tip Line: 240.777.3681  
Fax: 240.777.3768  
MC311

You can also file a complaint online by clicking [HERE](#)



