

Tyre Fitter interview questions

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What to expect

Interviews for tyre fitter roles are practical and workshop-focused. Employers want to know you can work safely and quickly under pressure, handle equipment correctly, and deal with customers who may be stressed about an unsafe tyre or an unexpected cost.

- **Process:** Questions checking you know the correct steps for fitting, balancing or repairing a tyre safely.
- **Safety:** Questions about identifying unsafe tyres, following workplace safety procedures and knowing when a repair isn't appropriate.
- **Behavioural:** Questions about past situations, particularly handling busy periods, mistakes or difficult customers.
- **Client-facing:** Questions testing how you explain technical issues and recommendations to customers who may not know much about tyres.

Expect a short chat about your background and any trade experience first, followed by practical and safety-focused questions, then a couple of scenario questions about customers or busy periods. Some workshops may ask you to demonstrate a task, such as using a wheel balancer or checking tread depth, as part of the interview.

1. Walk me through how you'd remove and refit a tyre on an alloy wheel without damaging it.

Why they ask

This checks you understand correct use of the tyre mounting machine and pneumatic tools, and that you know how to avoid common damage to alloy rims.

How to structure your answer

Answer as a step-by-step process: preparation and inspection, breaking the bead, removing the old tyre, checking the rim and valve, fitting the new tyre, seating and balancing.

Example answer

"First I'd check the wheel for damage and note the tyre size and direction if it's directional. I'd use the tyre mounting machine with the alloy-safe clamps and mounting head to avoid marking the rim, break the bead carefully, then remove the old tyre. I'd inspect the bead seat and valve stem, replace the valve if needed, then fit the new tyre using lubricant to protect the rim, inflate to the correct pressure and check the seating before balancing it on the wheel balancer."

2. How do you check whether a tyre is safe to repair or needs to be replaced?

Why they ask

This is core safety knowledge for the role and shows whether you'll cut corners under pressure to save a customer money.

How to structure your answer

Answer as a clear explanation of criteria: location and size of damage, tread depth, and any relevant safety standard or guideline you follow.

Example answer

"I check the location of the damage first: punctures in the main tread area within the repairable size are usually fine, but sidewall damage isn't repairable and I'll always say so. I check tread depth with a gauge and look at the overall condition, including any cracking or previous repairs. If a tyre doesn't meet the safe repair criteria I explain that clearly to the customer rather than patching it just to save

time or money.”

3. Tell me about a time you had to deal with a customer who was unhappy about the cost or outcome of a repair.

Why they ask

Tyre fitters deal directly with customers, often when they're already frustrated about an unexpected repair or replacement cost.

How to structure your answer

Use STAR: situation, task, action, result.

Example answer

“A customer came in expecting a simple puncture repair, but the damage was on the sidewall so it wasn't repairable. She wasn't happy about the extra cost of a new tyre. I showed her exactly where the damage was and explained why a sidewall repair isn't safe, then talked through tyre options at different price points. She ended up going with a mid-range tyre and thanked me for taking the time to explain it properly rather than just refusing the repair.”

4. A customer's car is booked in for a wheel alignment but you notice uneven tyre wear that suggests a suspension issue. What do you do?

Why they ask

This tests judgement about working within your scope and communicating issues you're not qualified to fix yourself.

How to structure your answer

Answer as a scenario response: what you'd check, what you'd flag, and how you'd communicate it without overstepping your role.

Example answer

“I'd point out the uneven wear pattern to the customer and explain that it often points to a suspension or steering issue rather than something an alignment alone will fix. I'd recommend they get it checked by a mechanic before or alongside the alignment, since doing the alignment without addressing the underlying cause could mean the wear happens again. I'd note it on the job card so the workshop has a record of the recommendation.”

5. How do you manage your workload when the bay is fully booked and a walk-in customer needs an urgent tyre fixed?

Why they ask

Workshops run on tight schedules, so employers want to see you can prioritise safely without letting service quality slip.

How to structure your answer

Answer as a practical explanation of how you'd assess urgency and communicate with customers and colleagues.

Example answer

“I'd quickly assess whether the walk-in's tyre is actually unsafe to drive on, like a flat or a badly damaged sidewall, versus something that can wait. If it's urgent, I'd let the next booked customer know there's a short delay and explain why, and check with my supervisor or teammates if we can shuffle jobs. Most customers are understanding if you're upfront about a genuine safety issue rather than just running late.”