

A N O T H E R  
**POINT OF VIEW**  
Guest Commentary

## Tire Sealant Company Responds

Within a few days of the publication of our September issue featuring our article, "Tire Sealants—What You Should Know," we received a phone call from Mark Farkhan, the president of Inovex Industries, maker of the Ride-On Tire Protection System. He expressed concern about the content of our article, stating his company had received "hundreds of phone calls and e-mails." He had not seen the article himself, so we immediately shipped him a copy, suggesting he read the article himself, then invited his response.

True to his word, Mark called back the following day, commented that the article "wasn't as bad as we'd been led to believe," and requested an opportunity to respond. *Wing World* is glad to provide Ride-On this month's "Another Point of View" space to do so.

Dear *Wing World*:

Thank you for sending us a copy of the September issue of *Wing World* magazine. As we discussed, our company has been receiving numerous inquiries about the article entitled "Tire Sealants - What You Should Know," authored by Jim Walbolt. First of all, I would like to say that I am pleased that your magazine is doing such a great job of educating its readership on the subject of tire sealants. Jim has done a great job of explaining some of the downsides and concerns regarding the use of tire sealant products. I write to you today to respond specifically to several points raised in the article.

Tire sealants are old business — they have been on the market for more than 50 years. Although many sealants do a decent job of sealing punctures, they can occasionally create more problems than they solve. Some tire sealants have been known to cause corrosion, balancing problems, and damage to the inner liners of tires. Many sealants also leave residues that are difficult to clean out, and thus prevent patches and plugs from properly adhering to tires.

Ride-On TPS is a professional product that has been sold to commercial tire dealers, government agencies, municipalities, and commercial fleets over the past seven years. Ride-On is used in everything from police cars and motorcycles, to tractor-trailers, trucks, buses, and mining and logging equipment. We manufacture several formulations of Ride-On that specifically address the differing properties required for various applications.

Ride-On is designed to be non-hazardous and non-flammable, and contains corrosion inhibitors that protect all alloys of steel, aluminum, magnesium, and yellow metals against oxidation. Although

some of our competitors' products have been documented as causing corrosion, Ride-On enjoys a reputation for being completely compatible with all types of wheels and tires. Ride-On is currently sold by six of the nation's ten largest commercial tire dealers. They install our products into the tires of their commercial customers who demand that the products not harm their aluminum or steel wheels. As their tires can last upwards of 250,000 miles, the fact that Ride-On is designed to not harm tire ply materials or cause a loss of adhesion strength helps those customers retain tires for the fullest life possible. Letters from manufacturers such as Michelin, Goodyear, Bridgestone/Firestone, Continental, Yokohama, and Toyo that indicate that the use of our products do not automatically void their warranties also bears witness to our success in creating a product that does not cause harm to tires or wheels. I have attached a copy of an independent test performed on Ride-On for the US Postal Service specifications conducted by the world's largest and leading federally-approved tire testing facility that validates our statements.\*

### **Repair versus Replacement**

Ride-On TPS will eliminate 85-95% of your flats in tubeless tires from objects up to 1/8" that penetrate the contact area of your tire. However, our company takes the position that any repair in a motorcycle tire should be treated as a temporary repair. We recommend that as soon as possible after finding an object in your tire, you get the tire inspected by a professional. If the recommendation is for fixing the puncture or replacing the tire, then you should do so. Ride-On will not interfere with the application of conventional tire plug and patch repairs, and can easily be washed out of tires with water.

### **Air Pressure**

Ride-On helps eliminate porosity leaks that cause tires to naturally deflate over time. Properly maintained tires run cooler, last longer, and help improve your bike's handling and fuel economy. Independent fleet tests have proven that tires containing Ride-On maintain their set point pressures up to 500% better than untreated tires.

### **Balance and Ride Stability Issues**

The product manufactured by our competitor was originally designed for use in bicycle tires, and according to their website is "not intended for speeds in excess of 75 mph". Ride-On is designed to actually help hydrodynamically balance tires at highway speeds. Once installed in a tire, it will actually act to dampen vibrations for the life of a tire so you do not need periodic rebalancing. Although we don't condone speeding, our dealers and customers comment that their bikes actually run smoother at speeds as high as 150 mph.

We believe that we have developed the best product on the market. If you want to maximize the life of your tires and reduce your chances of getting a flat tire, then consider using Ride-On. We appreciate the grass-roots efforts that thousands of our rider-customers have undertaken on the Internet and at rallies to help introduce and promote our products to fellow riders. We will take any feedback, positive or negative, and try to use it to improve our products and services.

Again, thank you again for allowing us to voice our opinion. I wish you many years of safe riding.

Ride-On,

**Mehrdad Mark Farkhan**  
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Member: Tire Industry Association • Tire  
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Engineers • American Trucking Association

\*Accompanying his letter, Mark Farkhan provided the above-mentioned 1998 report from Smithers Scientific Services of Akron, Ohio, plus several testimonial letters from businesses (including a motorcycle manufacturer and a rental agency), civic departments and individuals who have used Ride-On to their satisfaction. For copies of these documents, write to Inovex Industries or visit their Web site ([www.ride-on.com](http://www.ride-on.com)).

Mr. Farkhan has also offered us several applications of Ride-On for our own personal evaluation. Once we have installed and evaluated Ride-On, we'll share our findings here in *Wing World*. ■