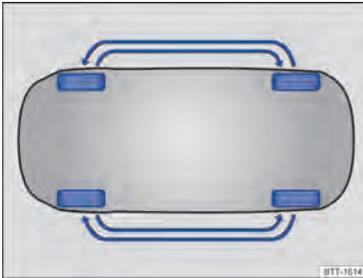


come loose, leading to a loss of control of the vehicle, causing accidents and serious injuries.

- Never drive if wheel bolts are missing or loose.
- Always use wheel bolts that match the wheel rims and the vehicle type.
- Always tighten the wheel bolts with the correct tightening torque. If you do not have a torque wrench, tighten the wheel bolts with the wheel bolt wrench and have the torque checked without delay by the nearest qualified workshop.

## Handling wheels and tyres

📖 Please refer to ⚠ at the start of the chapter on page 328.



**Fig. 182** Illustration: diagram for rotating wheels when all wheels have the same tyre and rim sizes.

The wheels and tyres approved by Volkswagen have been carefully selected.

### Rotating wheels when all wheels have the same tyre and rim sizes

If all wheels have the same tyre and rim sizes, it is recommended to regularly rotate the wheels in accordance with the diagram → Fig. 182 to ensure even wear of all tyres. All the tyres will then last for about the same time.

Volkswagen recommends having the wheels changed by a qualified workshop.

### Different tyre and rim sizes on front and rear axles

Your vehicle may be equipped with wheels which have different tyre and rim sizes depending on the axle on which they are fitted. The different wheels must not be swapped between the front and rear axles because this may also lead to the type approval for the vehicle becoming invalid.

◀ The size (rolling circumference) and tread design of the tyres on the front and rear axles may differ.

### Avoiding damage to the wheel rims and tyres

- Drive over kerbs and other low obstacles slowly and at right angles so that the two front wheels come into contact with the obstacle at the same time.
- Check the tyre pressure regularly.
- Regularly check tyres for damage, e.g. holes, slits, punctures or blisters.
- Never exceed the maximum speed and load permitted for the tyres that are fitted → page 336.
- Damaged or worn tyres must be replaced immediately → page 334.
- Protect the tyres from contact with aggressive substances, including grease, oil, petrol and brake fluid.
- Replace missing dust caps on the valves immediately.
- Remove foreign bodies that have not yet penetrated to the inside of the tyre → page 334.
- Observe all warnings of the tyre monitoring system → page 327.

### Tyres that are more than six years old

Tyres age through physical and chemical processes that can impair their function. Tyres that have been stored unused for an extended period of time age more quickly than tyres that are used all the time.

Volkswagen recommends replacing tyres that are more than six years old with new tyres. This also applies to tyres which appear to still be in good condition and whose tread depth has not yet reached the minimum value stipulated by legislation → .

Winter and all-year tyres also largely lose their effectiveness through **ageing** – regardless of the remaining tread depth.

The age of each tyre can be determined on the basis of the manufacturing date → page 332.

### Storing tyres

- Always store tyres in a cool, dry and preferably dark place. **Do not** store tyres mounted on the rim vertically.
- Any tyres not fitted on rims should be kept in suitable sleeves to protect against dirt and should be stored vertically (standing on the tread).

### New tyres

- Drive particularly carefully for the first 600 km (370 miles) with new tyres as the tyres have to be *run in*. Tyres that have not been run in have reduced grip →  and braking efficiency → .
- All wheels must be fitted with radial tyres of the same type, size (rolling circumference) and the same tread. Exceptions for wheel rotation apply if wheel and tyre sizes on the front and rear axles differ.

### Replacing tyres

- The vehicle is fitted at the factory with Volkswagen Genuine reduced rolling resistance tyres. Volkswagen Genuine tyres are marked with the symbol . The specified energy consumption and the specified range can be achieved only with these tyres. Make sure that any new tyres purchased have optimised rolling resistance → page 130.
- Seek advice at a qualified workshop before purchasing new low rolling resistance tyres. Volkswagen recommends using a Volkswagen dealership for this purpose.

- Always replace tyres at least on an axle-by-axle basis → .
- Old tyres should only be replaced by tyres that have been approved by Volkswagen for the vehicle type.
- Never use tyres with an effective size that is larger than Volkswagen-approved tyres.

### Re-synchronising the Tyre Pressure Loss Indicator

The Tyre Pressure Loss Indicator must be re-synchronised each time one or more wheels is changed → page 325.

This also applies when wheels are swapped, e.g. from the front to the rear. Exceptions for wheel rotation apply if wheel and tyre sizes on the front and rear axles differ.

#### **WARNING**

Corrosive liquids and other substances can cause visible and invisible damage to the tyres, which can cause the tyre to burst.

- Always keep chemicals, oils, lubricants, fuel, brake fluid and other corrosive substances away from the tyres.

#### **WARNING**

Even if they have not been used, old tyres can suddenly lose pressure or burst, especially at high speeds, and thus cause accidents and serious injuries.

- Avoid using tyres that are more than six years old. If you have no alternative, drive slowly and with extra care at all times.

#### **WARNING**

New tyres will have to be run in as they will initially have reduced grip and braking effect.

- Drive particularly carefully for the first 600 km (370 miles) in order to prevent accidents and serious injury.