




AI-03583 Tubeless Tire Leaks

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 Tags	SwimBikeSleep
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My gravel bike tires continental Terra trail 40c has 3-5 micro leaks all over the circumference due to punctures. It's around 15 months old and I kept adding sealant and fixes the leak. I know it's time to clean the old sealant but I'm a believer of "do no harm" since I'm only losing 15 psi per day. Educate me from the world's gravel cycling community of the best way to fix it. I have a spare tubeless tire but I'm frugal and don't want to ditch the "still thick" tire tread.

Shall I :

1. Disassemble the tire and tape, clean it like new then Put a new sealant with the old tire.
2. Disassemble the tire and tape, clean it like new the patch the holes with tubeless repair patch for car tires? Then Put a new sealant with the old tire.
3. Install fresh tires and just waste the leaky tires.

Cyclists in the gravel community generally agree that once a tubeless tire develops multiple micro-leaks across its casing, sealant alone becomes less effective. The most reliable fix is either patching the inside of the tire with tubeless-specific patches or replacing the tire altogether—cleaning and re-sealing without patching rarely solves widespread leaks. superteam... +1

Options Compared

Option	Pros	Cons	Community Consensus
1. Clean & reseal only	- Removes dried sealant- Restores bead/rim seal	- Micro-leaks in casing remain- Likely to keep losing air	- Seen as a temporary fix; not effective for multiple punctures

2. Clean, patch, then reseal - Tubeless repair patches (bicycle-specific, not car tire patches) can permanently seal casing holes- Extends tire life - Labor-intensive- Patches may fail if casing is too compromised Most frugal riders recommend this if tread is still thick
3. Install fresh tires - Guaranteed reliability- No more daily pressure loss - Costly- Waste of usable tread Best for peace of mind and performance

Community Insights

- Sealant alone won't fix multiple casing leaks. Riders report that once a tire has several punctures, sealant plugs them temporarily but air loss continues over time. Reddit
 - Tubeless patches work well if applied correctly. Specialized tubeless tire patches (from brands like Park Tool or Rema) bond to the inside casing and can restore airtightness. Car tire patches are heavier and not designed for bicycle casings. superteamwhe...
 - Cleaning the rim tape and bead area is essential. Dried sealant often causes bead leaks, so stripping old sealant and re-taping the rim improves the seal. superteamwhe...
 - Replacing tires is the "no-worry" solution. Many riders eventually swap to fresh tires once leaks become chronic, especially before long rides or races. TrainerRoad

Risks & Trade-offs

- Safety: Riding with a tire that loses 15 psi/day risks sudden deflation mid-ride, especially on rough gravel.
 - Frugality vs. reliability: Patching is cheaper but may fail under stress; new tires cost more but eliminate uncertainty.
 - Sealant compatibility: Ensure fresh sealant is latex-based and designed for gravel tires; some "long-life" sealants don't plug larger casing leaks effectively.

Recommendation

Since you're frugal and the tread is still thick, Option 2 (clean, patch with bicycle-specific tubeless patches, then reseal) is the best balance. Avoid car tire patches

—they're too stiff. If patches don't hold or leaks persist, move to Option 3 (new tires) for reliability.

Would you like me to walk you through a step-by-step patching process (tools, prep, and sealant choice) so you can maximize the life of your current tire before considering replacement?