

Changing a Flat Tire



Getting a flat tire can be a scary proposition! Statistics show that nearly every driver will experience a flat tire at least once during their lifetime. It is important to know what to do should this happen to you. Being proactive and prepared is the key. Take time to learn where your spare tire is located. Most cars are supplied with temporary spares designed for speeds under fifty miles per hour. This temporary tire will suffice until you get your car to the shop. Also make sure to locate the jack and tire iron. Both are usually located close to the spare tire.

Once you realize that you have a flat tire. Hold on to your steering wheel firmly, slow down and get your car completely off the road. It is best to pull to a spot that is not only well out of traffic, but also is on a flat surface. Placing cones or reflective triangles behind your car will warn other drivers if you must pull off on a main road. Having a safety kit in the trunk of your car is a must for all vehicles, so that you are prepared for virtually every emergency. Once your car is completely off the roadway on a flat surface you are ready to begin. Follow the steps on the next page in proper sequence. Practicing these steps before an emergency does occur will give you plenty of confidence when that first tire happens to go flat!

Steps for Changing a Flat Tire

1. After Car is parked in a level spot make sure it is placed in "Park."
2. Set the Parking Brake (Emergency Brake).
3. Block the wheel diagonally opposite the flat with a brick or piece of wood.
4. Take out the spare tire, jack and tire iron.
5. Assemble the jack and place it in a position where it can "grab" the frame of the car.
6. Remove the hubcap and place it near the flat (you can use the hubcap to collect your lug nuts).
7. Loosen all of the lug nuts just a bit while the flat tire is still on the ground.
8. Jack the car up until the tire is completely off the ground.
9. Remove all of the lug nuts and place them in the hub cap.
10. Remove the flat tire.
11. Mount the spare so that holes line up with "lugs."
12. Hand tighten the lug nuts.
13. Next, tighten the lug nuts using your tire iron. Make sure to tighten them diagonally in a star pattern.
14. Lower the car and remove the jack.
15. Tighten the lug nuts once again in a star pattern.
16. Replace the hub cap.
17. Store the flat as well as the jack and flat tire in trunk.
18. Remove the block and release the emergency brake.