

How To Change A Tire

You jump in your car headed for the airport to catch a plane bound for Hawaii. You get halfway there, and all of a sudden, your car begins to feel strange...it's not handling like it should. You pull off to the side of the highway, and to your horror, you have a flat tire. Ok, no big deal, I have this nice cellular phone, I can call for help...Oh but where did I put it...rats... I left it on the bed while I was hastily packing for my trip. Now what do I do? I've never changed a tire in my life...I wouldn't even know where to begin...

Well, lucky you...You happened upon this web page the other night while frantically searching for discounted airfare, and something in the back of your mind convinced you to print it and stick it in your car.

Using our instructions, you'll be able to change that tire, and still make it to the airport just in time to catch your plane.

Good luck!

What You'll Need

- Spare Tire, inflated properly
- Tire Blocks (optional)
- Gloves (optional)
- Flashlight (optional)

Most vehicles will have an owners' manual which will tell you where to look for the jack and the spare tire.

You should make sure that your spare tire is properly inflated, and you have all the necessary tools before you drive off...just in case you get a flat.

Let's Get Started!

Step 1: Choose your spot well

- Pull off the road so that you are safely out of the flow of traffic



- Try to stop in a straight part of the road, so that passing traffic can see you from a distance
- Stop the car on a level spot, it is unsafe to jack up

a car on an incline

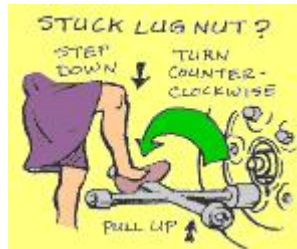
- Turn on your **Hazard** lights

Step 2: Remove tools from vehicle

- Retrieve the tools listed above from the car and place them within reach
- If desired, put on the gloves, and place the blocks under the tire opposite the flat

Step 3: Loosen the lug nuts

- **Remove the hubcap, if necessary**
 - *some cars won't have hubcaps... consult your owners' manual for proper instructions in removing the hubcaps*
- **Using the lugwrench, begin to loosen the lug nuts**
 - *sometimes the lug nuts are quite difficult to loosen*
 - *if you can't loosen them, try jumping on the lug wrench to loosen them*



- Do not remove the lug nuts, only loosen them

Step 4: Jack up the vehicle

- **Consult your owners' manual and find where the jack needs to be positioned**
 - *usually, the jack contacts the car at a small plate on the frame of the car*
 - *this plate is usually located just in front of the rear tires, and just behind the front tires*
- **Position the jack under the car, and raise the jack until it contacts the frame**
- **Make sure the jack is properly positioned**
- **Extend the jack until the tire is about 6 inches off the ground**
 - *remember: don't stop raising the car when the flat tire is just off the ground...the spare tire is fully inflated and will require more ground clearance*

Step 5: Remove the flat tire



- **Remove the lug nuts from the bolts, and put them aside**
- **Grab the wheel**
 - *it is easiest to grab the tire at the "nine o'clock" and*

"three o'clock" positions

- **Pull the wheel straight toward you, and off the car**

Step 6: Put on the spare tire

- **Position the spare tire directly in front of the wheel well**
- **Align the holes in the center of the spare tire with the bolts on the car**
- **Lift the spare tire and position it on the threaded bolts**
- **Push the tire onto the car until it cannot go any farther**
- **Replace the lugnuts on the bolts and tighten them, but not too tight...just enough to hold the tire in place while you lower the car**

Step 7: Lower the vehicle

- **Lower the car with the jack until the car is again resting on all four tires**
- **Tighten the lugnuts, starting with one, then moving to the one opposite it, and so on...**

Step 8: Put the tools away

- **Place the flat tire where the spare was located**
- **Replace the jack and lug wrench in their proper locations**
- **Carefully inspect your work area and make sure that you're not leaving anything**
- **Continue on to your destination, and have the flat tire repaired**