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Flat Tires

How to Change a Flat Tire with a Spare Tire

Version 1.1

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# Introduction

Changing a flat tire on your own with the spare tire located in the trunk of your vehicle will save you money and time. It does not take long to change the flat tire and requires materials that should be located in the trunk of your vehicle. If you follow these procedures it will ensure that you safely and properly change a spare tire with the flat tire and be immediately back on the road to your local dealer or repair shop to replace the tire that failed with a new tire that will become your new spare.

# Why You Need to Learn to Change a Flat Tire

Being able to change a tire will benefit you in several ways:

* You do not have to pay a professional like roadside assistance or a repair shop to change the flat tire for you so it saves you money.
* You do not have to call and wait for a tow truck so it can save you time.
* Instead of waiting an indefinite time for tow truck or roadside assistance, you change your own tires in about 30 minutes and are back on the road.

# Equipment Needed

* Spare tire
* Manual car jack
* Lug wrench
* Wheel wedges
* Lug nuts

| **Subject** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| **Spare Tire** |  |
| **Manual Car Jack** – Used to raise or lower the vehicle |  |
| **Lug Wrench** - Used to loosen, remove, and tighten the lug nuts | Text  Description automatically generated |
| **Lug Nuts** – Attaches the tire rim to the wheel | A picture containing indoor, metalware, tableware  Description automatically generated |
| **Wheel Wedges –** Use as a block to place in front or behind tire | A stack of books  Description automatically generated with medium confidence |

# Procedure

# Before Raising the Vehicle

1. Pull over slowly to the side, ideally to a flat spot off the road surface.
2. Turn on your hazard lights so other drivers can see you.
3. Put on the parking brake so the vehicle will not roll.
4. Put the emergency light on.
5. Lift up the cover in your trunk for the spare tire.
6. Locate the manual car jack and lug wrench.
7. Remove the spare tire from the trunk.
8. Put the wheel wedges in front of or behind the wheels. If you are changing a rear tire, place the wheel wedge in front of a front tire. If you are changing a front tire, place the wheel wedge behind a rear tire.
9. Remove the hubcap covering the lug nuts from the flat tire.
10. Loosen the lug nuts on the flat tire by using the lug wrench and turning counterclockwise. Do not remove the lug nuts completely yet.

# Raising the Vehicle

1. Place the car jack under the frame near the area where the flat tire is located.
2. Insert the wrench to the car jack and turn clockwise so it can lift the vehicle up and the vehicle is completely off the ground.
3. Do not put your hand or leg under the vehicle while using the car jack or after the vehicle has been raised as the car can fall on you and injure or kill you.
4. Use the lug wrench to remove all lug nuts from the flat tire completely by turning the lug nuts counterclockwise and put them in a spot where they will not roll away.
5. Remove the flat tire.
6. Put on spare tire.
7. Tighten each lug nut in a star pattern, not a circle.
8. Turn each lug nut clockwise onto the spare tire by hand then with the lug wrench.

# Lower the Vehicle

1. Insert the wrench to the car jack and turn the wrench counterclockwise to lower the vehicle.
2. Remove the car jack once vehicle is back on the ground.
3. Retighten the lug nuts with the lug wrench on the spare tire.
4. Put the flat tire, car jack, and lug wrench, wheel wedge, and hubcap back to the trunk of the car.

# Driving Away Afterwards

1. Do not exceed highway speed once the flat tire is replaced with the spare tire.
2. Do not drive long distances with the spare tire. Go to a tire shop or service station to have them replace the flat tire with a new one, install the new tire to replace the spare, and put the spare back in the trunk.