

# How to Repair a Bicycle - Illustrated Guide

## Tools You'll Need



Before starting, gather these essentials: tire levers, a patch kit or spare tube, a bike pump, an adjustable wrench, screwdrivers (Phillips and flathead), chain lubricant, and a clean rag. Having these on hand makes most repairs manageable.

## Repairing a Flat Tire



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Flat tires are the most frequent issue cyclists face. Remove the wheel using a wrench or quick-release lever. Pry one side of the tire off the rim with tire levers and pull out the inner tube. Locate the puncture by inflating the tube slightly and listening for air or feeling for the leak. Apply a patch from a kit or replace the tube. Reinsert the tube, work the tire back onto the rim, and inflate it. Reattach the wheel.

### Fixing a Loose or Slipped Chain

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A chain that's too loose or off the gears can stop your ride. Shift to the smallest gear. If the chain is off, manually lift it back onto the chainring and rear cog. Check tension. Adjust the rear wheel or derailleur if needed. Lubricate the chain and wipe off excess.

### Adjusting Brakes



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Squeaky or weak brakes compromise safety. Inspect brake pads for wear. Tighten the brake cable if needed. Align the pads so they hit the rim squarely. Test by spinning the wheel and applying the brakes. Fine-tune as needed.

### Routine Checks

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Beyond specific repairs, regularly tighten bolts on the handlebars, seat, and pedals, clean the frame, and listen for odd noises that might signal trouble.

### When to Seek Help



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If gears won't shift, the wheel wobbles, or the frame is damaged, consider a professional shop. Some repairs require special tools or expertise.