



Simulated supertask

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Changing a flat tire

Use these instructions to change a flat tire.

Stopping the vehicle

Move as quickly as you can from the traffic lane to the shoulder or other safe stopping place.

Remember that the vehicle does not handle the same way with a flat or blown tire.

1. Signal that you intend to move to the right.

Important: Do not stop on the left shoulder unless you cannot maintain control of the vehicle long enough to reach the right shoulder.

2. Check each lane to make sure that it is safe to change lanes. Continue to signal, but do not turn on your hazard lights while you are on the road.
3. When you are in the right lane, look for a safe place to stop.

Look for:

- A side street off a main road
- An exit on a freeway or divided highway
- A layby, turnout, or rest area
- A street lamp

Do not stop:

- On a bridge or overpass
- Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing
- On or near a blind curve
- On a hill

4. As soon as you move out of the right lane, turn on your hazard lights.
5. Come to a stop on a level surface as far away from traffic as you can reach.
6. Turn off the engine and set the parking brake.
7. If you have a manual transmission, put the gear shift in neutral.
8. Exit the vehicle. If possible, leave from the passenger's side. If you must exit on the driver's side, check for traffic in the near lane before opening the door.
9. Set out any hazard indicators that you have. If you have a safety vest or bright jacket, put it on. At night, even pulling on a white tee-shirt over your clothing can help other drivers see you.
10. Ask all passengers to exit the vehicle and wait away from traffic.

Preparing to remove the wheel

Prepare your work area before you remove the flat tire.

1. Use a wheel chock, brick, or large rock to block the wheel on the far side of the opposite tire. For example, if you are changing the right rear tire, position the chock on the front side of the left wheel.
2. Remove the spare tire, jack, and tire iron from the trunk.

Tip: Most pickup trucks and SUVs have the spare tire mounted beneath the vehicle between the back tires. See your owner's manual for removal instructions.

- a. If your vehicle has a locking lug nut to prevent wheel theft, locate the lug key.

- b. Some specialty wheels require specific lug nuts that cannot be used on the spare. Locate the correct lug nuts for the spare wheel.
3. After you have removed the necessary equipment, close the trunk or hatch door.
4. Locate the jack point on the underside of the vehicle. Look on the passenger side even if the flat is on the driver's side. The jack points are positioned symmetrically on the vehicle, and you should minimize the time you spend on the driver's side of the vehicle.
5. Remove the hubcap to expose the lug nuts.
6. Working in a generally diagonal pattern, loosen the lug nuts so that they are finger tight or a bit tighter. It is safer to put force into the task when the vehicle is on the ground than it is when the vehicle is elevated.

If there are five lug nuts, loosen them in this order: 1, 3, 5, 2, 4. It does not matter which one you loosen first, so long as you do not move to an adjacent lug nut.

Important: Do not remove the lug nuts yet.

Elevating the vehicle

Elevate the appropriate wheel so that you can replace the tire.

1. Review the instructions provided with your jack. Most automobile manufacturers provide detailed instructions in the Owner's Manual. In many cases, basic instructions for the jack are also provided on a permanent sticker on the trunk lid or in the spare tire's storage area.
2. "Assembling the jack"
Your jack might require assembly before you can use it to lift your vehicle.
3. "Positioning the jack"
Most vehicles include a marker on the body to help you position the jack correctly for the closest wheel.
4. "Operating the jack" on page 3
Use the jack to elevate or lower the vehicle.

Assembling the jack

Your jack might require assembly before you can use it to lift your vehicle.

If your jack consists of two or more parts, assemble the jack.

In most cases, assembly requires that you insert the lever into the body.

Related concepts

"Jack" on page 3

A *jack* is a device that you can use to lift a vehicle.

Positioning the jack

Most vehicles include a marker on the body to help you position the jack correctly for the closest wheel.

If there is no specially-marked jack position, place the jack at least 8" and no more than 16" from the wheel well.

1. Locate the jack position nearest the flat tire.
2. Slide the jack under the vehicle at the jack position.

Tip: The storage position for your jack might not be fully collapsed. You might need to collapse the jack more before you can slide it under the vehicle.

Related concepts

“Jack”

A *jack* is a device that you can use to lift a vehicle.

Operating the jack

Use the jack to elevate or lower the vehicle.

Crank the lever to lift or lower the jack.

Important: As you begin to elevate the vehicle, make sure that the jack is securely positioned at the appropriate location. Never elevate a vehicle that is unsteady on the jack.

Related concepts

“Jack”

A *jack* is a device that you can use to lift a vehicle.

Jack

A *jack* is a device that you can use to lift a vehicle.

There are different types of jacks. *Floor jacks* or *shop jacks* are larger and more sturdy than *portable jacks*.

Most vehicles come with a portable jack, which typically consist of two parts: the *body* and the *lever*. The lever might be the lug wrench.

Removing the wheel

With the vehicle elevated, remove the flat tire.

1. Working in the star pattern, remove the loosened lug nuts. Place the lug nuts in the hubcap or some other container so that they do not roll away.
2. Slide the flat tire toward you.
3. When the tire is clear of the axle, lower it to the ground and move it out of your way. Do not attempt to put the flat tire in the trunk while the vehicle is elevated.

Installing the spare tire

Install the spare tire in place of the flat tire.

1. Position the spare tire in front of the axle. The deeper side of the tire goes toward the vehicle.
2. Lift the spare tire and slide the openings over the extruding bolts.
3. Attach the lug nuts and tighten them finger-tight, using the same star pattern you used when removing them. You will tighten them completely when the vehicle is on the ground.

Lowering the vehicle

After replacing the flat tire with the spare tire, lower the vehicle to the ground.

1. Crank the jack lever to lower the vehicle to the ground. Continue lowering until the vehicle body no longer rests on the jack.
2. Tighten the lug nuts with the lug wrench.
3. Slide the jack out from under the vehicle.
4. If the storage position for the jack is not fully collapsed, expand the jack to the correct storage position.

Related tasks

“Operating the jack”

Use the jack to elevate or lower the vehicle.

Performing a safety inspection

Before driving off, stow your tools safely and inspect your work.

1. Examine the spare tire and test the tightness of the lug nuts.
2. Remove and return any chocks that you used.
3. Stow the equipment:
 - Stow the jack in its correct location. In some vehicles, the jack holds the spare tire in place. Depending on your vehicle design, you might need to stow the tire first.
 - Stow the flat tire in a safe location. If possible, put the flat tire in the spare tire's well. In some small vehicles, a regular wheel will not fit in the spare tire's well. In this case, try to secure the flat tire with bungee cords or rope.
 - Stow any tools that you used. Stow safety gear last.

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