

Change A Flat Tire Checklist

By Lauren Meir

- Tools You Need:
 - Spare tire
 - Tire jack ;
 - Lug wrench
 - Socket (*If your hubcap has hard-to-remove covers on the lug nuts)
 - Owner's manual for your vehicle
This gives instructions on exactly how to position the jack under your car.
- Changing the Tire
 - Park on a flat surface.
 - Remove the hubcap
Some are easier to remove than others. If you can't remove your hubcap by hand, you may need a socket to loosen the bolt covers. Put the socket over the covers and loosen - you may need to do more than one in order to pry the hubcap loose.
 - Loosen the lug nuts
;Use the lug wrench by placing it on the tire's lug nuts.
 - Place the tire jack underneath your car
;Check your owner's manual of your vehicle on how to correctly place the jack under your car. Typically, the manual is located in the glove compartment.
 - Jack up your car
;Crank the tire jack until the wheel is high above ground, enough for you to safely remove it.
 - Remove the flat
;Remove the loosened lug nuts from the wheel. You should be able to do this by hand.
 - Put on your spare tire
;Line up the lugs with the holes in the wheel and slide on.
 - Lower the car
;Lower the tire jack until the wheel is firmly touching the ground.
 - Finish tightening the lug nuts
;The lug nuts have to be fastened securely on for safety, so use your lug wrench for this.
- Back on Track and Beyond
 - If you used a block, be sure to remove it first.
 - Ensure all equipment - flat tire, lug wrench, owners manual and any other tools are stowed safely before getting back on the road.
 - Drive slowly
Spare tires are usually smaller than regular tires and if it's your first time changing a flat, you'll want to be extra cautious.
 - Make sure to get your car to a mechanic or autobody shop as soon as possible to replace the tire.
 - Get another spare tire
...just in case this happens again!
- Helpful to have (but not necessary to change the flat)
 - Tire pressure gauge
 - Tire pump
 - Tire patch
In case you can't change the flat yourself, and only have to travel a short distance to someone who can help.
 - Flashlight