

Changing a Tyre

1. Stay safe

If you experience a puncture whilst driving do not panic! Release the gas and signal, then steer the vehicle to a stop at the side of the road. Put on your hazard lights to alert other drivers. Even if it means driving for a few minutes on a flat tyre it is better to be safely out of harm's way than two inches from the inside lane of a busy motorway. If you are in a dangerous position, or a female travelling alone, it may be best to call for help.

2. Try to work on firm flat ground

Any slope or camber will hinder you when it comes to jacking up the vehicle and could make it unstable and dangerous. Lay-bys or service station car parks are usually fairly level. It may be worth moving to a more suitable place if you can do so safely.

3. Preparation

Pull on the handbrake and put the car into either first gear or reverse. Turn off the engine. Locate the tools for the job. Remove the spare tyre from its storage space.

4. Starting the job

Before you jack up the car and tyre is still in contact with the road, remove the wheel cover or nut protectors and loosen all of the nuts with the wheel wrench. This may require standing on the wheel wrench to break the nuts free. Then position the jack as indicated in your owner's handbook – this is important as the jack will pierce the car's underside if it is not placed beneath a strengthened area. Jack up the car. Remove the wheel nuts completely and keep them safe. *Remember: Right – tighten, Left – loosen!*

5. Doing the job

Carefully remove the wheel and leave it to one side. Line up the replacement wheel and place it onto the hub. Then tighten the nuts with your fingers. Safely lower the car so that the tyre is touching the ground and finish tightening the nuts with the wheel wrench. Stand on the wheel wrench to ensure a tight fit and work in a diagonal pattern.

6. Finishing off

Replace your tools and store the flat tyre and wheel trim in the boot. Don't drive around on a spare tyre any longer than necessary. Make sure you have it removed and a new tyre fitted at the first opportunity. Whether it's a space saver or a full-sized spare, they are only designed as a temporary solution. Do not be caught out with another puncture!

7. Remember!

Regular checks on your spare tyre pressure and condition are essential. The right tools for the job should also be checked and easily accessed in your car. Finally, if you don't belong to a motor association, look for the best offer and consider joining one.