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HIGH LIFE

#Changing a Tyre

Data Friendly Version



Lesson One

Preparation is KEY

The Dreaded Pop

No one enjoys changing tyres and it can be a scary situation when driving and you hear that horrible sound! However, being prepared for this situation will help keep you calm and composed, knowing you are able to fix it yourself!

It is difficult to avoid when driving, but with a bit of preparation and understanding, you can be back on the road in under 30 minutes.

Although expect a lot of hard work and sadly a much dirtier look than before it happened.

Pre-Checks before driving

It is essential that you don't drive around without a spare tyre and the tool kit you need. Most likely these tools and spare Tyre will be kept in the boot of your car. Check under the boot floor for the secret compartment that keeps these safe.

What you need to check for is the following items – Take them out every once in a while, try them out to make sure you are comfortable using them. The Jack is often the trickiest for those changing a tyre for the first time, so get some practice in before you start driving!

- **Spare Tyre** – Round circle that looks like a tyre not attached to the car.
- **Car Jack** – Looks complicated and needs some practice.
- **Lug wrench** – Long pipe with a socket at the top, fits over the wheel nuts.
- **Reflective Triangle** – 3-sided item that lets other know you're broken down.



Prevention and Practice

It is best to keep your tyres in the best shape possible to help **prevent** issues down the road. Avoid any potholes and objects on the road if you can without causing an accident. Regularly check your tyre pressure at a petrol station and inspect the tread on your tyres each month to ensure they are not getting too smooth.

Practice at home with the tools you are going to need. Check that the tyre is not too heavy to pick up and is not flat. Try out the Jack till you are comfortable raising and lowering the adjustment lever. Try tightening and loosening the Lug nuts on the tyre to get the hang of it!

No tyre lasts forever, so if they are looking a bit rough then take your car in to a Tyre workshop to be checked for replacement or rotation as needed.

Lesson Two

Called into action !

Safety First

When your tyre finally does pop and you are called into action, first things first. STOP SOMEWHERE SAFE !!!

It doesn't matter where your tyre pops, make sure you pull over safely into a side pass that is visible to other cars and preferably well lit. If you can't find a safe place to stop then rather stay in your car, call roadside assistance, and wait till they get there to help.

If you are stopped in a safe flat place and your punctured tyre is not facing the main road traffic, then you can consider tackling your demons.

Set up for Success

Once you are in a safe spot and hyped yourself up to do this, get out all of the tools you need to get the job done. Place the spare tyre flat down on the floor (You don't want to be chasing a runaway Tyre!), Place the Jack and Lug Wrench next to you for easy access. Lastly place the reflective triangle about 5-10 metres behind your car so that it is visible to other drivers.

First action is to **loosen the Lug nuts** on the punctured Tyre. Remove any Hubcaps or wheel covers you may have. Place the Lug wrench at a 10 O'clock angle to give you the best movement to loosen these, jump on the wrench if you have to! **Turn anti-clockwise**. Once all four are loosened up (Without taking them off), then you can move onto the cracker Jack.

Once you are used to the **cranking of the Jack** up and down this is easy work, so don't be shy to practice at home. Place the jack on the ground and line up the undercarriage of the car (Not the body of the car) and the groove of the jack. Start to unwind the jack until these two meet and at this point the car will begin to raise as you continue winding the Jack. Keep winding the Jack up until a point that the wheel can spin freely and then you are ready.

Remove the Lug nuts one at a time whilst keeping them stored in a safe place – You won't have spares for these! Once all are removed you can take off the punctured tyre and lay it flat on the ground out of your way. The next part requires some form of hand-eye coordination. **Lift the spare tyre** and line it up with the wheels bolts until it is firmly in. Place all of the lug nuts back onto the wheel with your hands.

Last step is to lower and remove the jack slowly, then using the Lug wrench to tighten all of the lug nuts – Do these diagonally to ensure the tyre remains straight.

That's It – You are DONE !!!



Lesson Three

To change or not to change

Know when to call it quits

If your tyre is ever punctured in a busy road, dark area, on the traffic facing side or even if it just raining, it's always best to call a professional. The last thing you need is to risk your life to just to prove a point. If you are not confident yet to try it then let someone else do it for now!

If you see any damage to the actual wheel or even the car itself then rather call your roadside assistance to inspect the vehicle. And if you do manage to change the tyre, then make sure you do get the tyre replaced at a tyre workshop as soon as possible. Biscuit tyres are not meant for long distances or high speeds!

Helpful Extras

In anticipation of this event, it is highly recommended to have the following items stored in your boot for such an instance:

- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Raincoat
- Gloves and a spare change of clothes
- Cloth or rags – Trust me it gets really dirty

Insurance

Tyres are not cheap, and it is hard to plan for this cost as you don't know when it will ever happen. It is a good idea to get some tyre insurance for this event. They will offer this to you when you are purchasing new tyres and it definitely does pay off in the long run if you can fit it into your budget.

Lastly, when you have removed the punctured Tyre from your car – DO NOT take out the object that actually caused the tyre to be punctured. Leave it in there if it is visible as this tyre could easily be repaired instead of replaced – But only if you don't take it out!

Practice makes perfect and builds up your confidence !

So, try out your new skills and knowledge for the day you are finally called into action !

