Changing a Car Tire

Tires are parts of a car that roll nicely while on the move, but one major limitation is losing air unexpectedly. Without air, tires are useless, because they are deflected and hence the car cannot move. This is not a pleasant experience since it seems like the car purposely got a flat tire at the least expected moment. It is like when one is rushing to a very important appointment or an interview, for instance.

Some people are lucky to own cars with low tire air warning systems, thus they are in a position to escape the icky process. However, some cars do not have warning signs, so they never alert a driver about the flat tire. Nevertheless, when a tire flattens, a driver will know about it. It is necessary that a flat tire is changed for a driver to drive the car again and avoid accidents.

Changing a flat car tire has a process, which must be followed.

Imagine driving on high speed to catch up with an important appointment, and then all of a sudden you hear the telltale thumping noise of a flat tire. Most of us will tend to bang the staring and bend our heads on it, but that should not be the case. One needs to carefully pull the car off to the shoulder of the road and inspect it. After identifying the flat tire, one ought to remove it and install another spare tire in its place.

Replacing the flat tire successfully requires several steps that should be followed.

Step 1: carefully choose your parking spot
One should make sure that the car is off the road by pulling it to the side of the road and out of traffic flow. One must park at a safe place so that passing cars can see his/her car from a distance. One should ensure that the car is stopped at a level spot and not on an incline in order to restrict the car from rolling and turn the hazard lights on or the emergency flashers.

Step 2: Get the tools to be used from your vehicle

First, one must put the car in “park” position after applying the parking brake. Vehicles or cars with standard transmission should be put in first or reverse. One should then retrieve the jack, lug wrench and the spare tire, and place them within the reach. If the gloves are readily available in the car, one should put them on to save time washing hands after fixing the tire and put blocks, rock, spare wheel or concrete under the opposite of the flat tire. The jack should be placed under the frame near the tire that is to be changed. The jack must be in contact with the metal portion of the car’s frame.

If the car has a molded plastic along the bottom, then the jack must be placed in the right spot to avoid cracking the plastic once you start lifting the car. Modern uni-body cars do have a small mark indicated just right behind the front wheel wells where the jack is to be positioned. One should ensure that the jack is in a firm place against the underside of the car and that it is also perpendicular to the ground.

Step 3: Start to loosen lug nuts

Cars have different designs on of lug nuts. Some do have hubcaps, while others do not. It is good to consult one’s own manual to be properly informed. If necessary, the hubcap should be removed.

Step 4: Lift the tire off the ground by pumping the jack
One should ensure that the car is stable and highly lift the tire to be able to change it. Using the lug wrench, try to jump on the lug wrench to loosen the lug nuts if they are difficult to loosen.

Step 5: Remove the nuts

Loosening the nuts is done in a counterclockwise direction until they loosen. One should then remove the nuts completely with all lug nuts

Step 6: Remove the flat tire

Once the flat tire has been removed, it should be placed under the car just in case the jack fails. The flat wheel will provide support hence preventing any injuries.

Step 7: Place the spare tire on the hub

Using the wheel bolts, one should align the spare tire rim and ensure that the lug nuts are put on tying the tire to the car.

Step 8: Tighten the nuts

All the nuts should be tightened by turning them clockwise until they are immovable. The wheel spanner is used for this purpose.

Step 9: Lower the car without removing the jack

Without using much force on the tire, one should carefully lower the car. Once again, the nuts should be tightened for surety.

Step 10: Fully lower the car to the ground

After ensuring the nuts are tight, one should completely remove the jack and finally tighten the nuts. One should not forget to replace the hubcap.

Step 11: Place the old tire in your car trunk
Finally, one should take the tire to a garage for repair. One should get the total cost of repair, and if the tire is completely worn out, then it is definitely irreplaceable. It is therefore advisable that the old tire is properly disposed and one gets a replacement either from a mechanic or a recommended car tire dealer.
Works Cited