### WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Car jack
- Wheel brace wrench
- Gloves
- Spare wheel

### USEFUL TO HAVE

- Warning triangle
- Cleaning rags
- Torch
- Plastic sheet or ground sheet
- Hi-vis vest

### HANDY TIPS

- You need to carry a warning triangle in your car by law in most European countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Ireland, and if you’re driving in Spain you’ll need two warning triangles.
- If you have a blanket or ground sheet, place on the ground by where you’ll be changing the tyre, as it can keep you and the tyre changing kit clean.
- It’s worth remembering that if you’re driving with a space-saving tyre, you may only be able to drive at a reduced speed, such as 80 km/h, and over a limited distance. As soon as possible, get to a garage to get the deflated tyre repaired or replaced. Here, you can also get the nuts retightened and tyre pressure checked.
The first thing to do is to bring the car to a controlled stop in a safe place. Be as smooth as possible, avoiding sharp turns and heavy braking to keep your car under control. Ideally, stop away from the road and on hard and level ground. Avoid stopping near corners and on motorways.

Once you’ve stopped the car, pop on your hazard warning lights and dipped headlights or sidelights. Apply your handbrake and turn off the engine. Put the car in park if you have an automatic gearbox or into first gear if you have a manual gearbox, this helps keep the car still.

Throw on a hi-vis vest, find your reflective warning triangle (if you’ve got it) and place at least 45m behind the car, facing the direction of oncoming traffic, being careful when doing so.

If you have passengers, then get them out and to a safe place away from the road and car.

Most cars have a spare wheel stored either in the boot or under the rear of the car. If you can’t find it, consult the car manual.

It’s best to empty the boot at this point to make getting the tyre out easier. Raise the boot floor to reveal the spare wheel. Remove the equipment that you’re going to need and then take out the spare wheel. It might be fastened in place.

If the tyre is stored under the rear of the car, find out how to release it from the car manual.

Once the wheel is released, lay it on the ground, in between the front and rear wheels. Be careful as it may be heavy to lift.
Now you’re ready to remove the deflated wheel. Take off any wheel hubs or inserts, exposing the wheel nuts. Remove any wheel nut covers and store safely. If there are wheel ties, you’ll need to cut them.

If you have lockable wheel nuts, place the special wheel nut release over the first wheel nut and attach the wheel brace wrench, turning in an anti-clockwise direction to loosen but not altogether remove.

You may need to use your foot and body weight to get things going. Then do the same loosening procedure to the remaining nuts.

Between the wheels, along the underside of the car, find the jacking point, i.e. where the car jack lifts the car. The car jack can only be used at this point to lift the car as it’s strengthened, and other locations may cause damage or a car jack failure.

It’s helpful to hold the base of the car jack to keep it in place as you raise it. The car jack extends by using a rotating lever or you may need to use the other end of the wheel brace wrench. Alternatively, you may have a hydraulic jack that pumps up.

Remember that once the deflated tyre starts to raise off the ground, you’re nearly there, but keep going until there’s enough space to fit the larger, fully inflated spare wheel under the car, in case of jack failure.

Make sure you don’t work under the car when it is on the car jack.
Now, unscrew and remove the loosened wheel nuts, probably with your fingers, and store the nuts safely, ready for reuse. Hold the wheel in place until you are ready to remove it. Slowly pull the wheel towards you, being careful as it may be heavy.

Now get the spare wheel ready. Stand it up, with the outside of the wheel facing towards you, and rotate it to get the wheel nut holes aligned with the car’s. Then lift it on, holding it in place.

One by one, screw the wheel nuts in a clockwise direction and tighten by using your fingers or very lightly with the wheel brace wrench. Don’t over tighten while the car is still on the car jack.
Now slowly start to lower the car jack until the tyre is touching the floor but don’t lower it all the way.

Using the wheel brace wrench and lockable nut, tighten the nuts as much as possible, again using your foot and body weight, if required. After you have tightened the first nut, next go to the one opposite as it better aligns the wheel, and so on.

You’re nearly done. Now finish lowering the jack, give the nuts a final tighten and put the nut covers and wheel hubs back on.

Put everything back into the boot as you found it, keeping it safe. Once you’re happy everything is stored away, remember to collect the warning triangle.

Take the car out of gear and restart. Once it’s safe to do so, turn off your hazard warning lights and indicate to pull safely into traffic.