

HOW TO FIX A FLAT TIRE

Flat tires can and often do happen while riding so it is important to know how to handle these situations. If you notice your tire is low, please inflate it. Before you begin your ride in the morning it is a good idea to check the pressure in your tires and add air to the tire if needed. Throughout the day it is important to maintain the recommended pressure in the tire to keep the bike functioning properly.

If your tire is punctured while on a ride, your tube will deflate very quickly. (Please Note: all rental bike tires have tubes and come with repair kits and the essential tools to fix a flat tire.) If your tire is punctured, you will need to fix the puncture or replace the tube.

Steps to Fix a Flat Tire

To replace the tube, make sure you open the brakes by removing pressure from the cable or pushing the brake lever up. Next, release the wheel from its "dropouts" by opening the quick release. Please note: Some bike rentals may have a nut which you will need to loosen.

For rear wheels you may turn the bike over, but keep the chain and derailleur out of the dirt and make sure you memorize where the chain was on the rear derailleur. (Tip: Use the gears to move the chain in the smallest rear derailleur ring.)

Remove the air from the tube by using the stem valve. Then go to the opposite side of the tire and use your levers to lift the tire from the inside of the rim. It is only necessary to remove one side, once a part of the tire is off the rim, you should be able to remove the rest by hand and then pull the tube out of the tire.

Carefully inspect the tire for the object which punctured the tire. If it is still in the tire, remove it with cautiously so you do not injure yourself.

Apply a small amount of air to the tube to ensure it is properly holding the air. Then reinsert the tube into the tire, ensuring that it is flat and straight to fit properly in the tire. Once the tube is in place, work the tire back onto the rim starting at the valve. Try to use only your hands to replace the tire back on the bike to avoid damaging the tube.

Once the tire is on run your hands around the rim a few times squeezing the tire to ensure the tube is in place. Inflate the tube about 30% and then check again to make sure everything is still in place and the valve is straight. If everything is correct finish inflating the tire according to the recommended pressure noted on the side of the tire.

Please Note: Wider tires take less pressure than thinner tires because they have more surface area.

Replace the wheel in the dropouts and make sure you tighten the quick release so your wheel is not rubbing against one of the brake pads, but is in the middle of the breaks after you apply them for a test. For the rear wheel, make sure the chain is in the same derailleur ring; otherwise, there you will have problems with the gears.

Make sure the magnet for the odometer on the front wheel is aligned with the sensor.

Important: Don't forget to replace the brake (cable)!

How to Use your Patch Kit

If you puncture your tire while on the road simply replace the tube and continue your ride. When you arrive at your next destination you can find and fix the puncture at leisure.

Steps to Repair a Tire Puncture

If the puncture is obvious, thoroughly clean the area and use the sand paper from the kit to roughen the area around the puncture.

Spread an even layer of glue over the puncture area and allow it to dry. You may want to apply a second layer, but make sure the first layer is dry (approx 2mn).

Apply an appropriate size patch to cover the puncture and secure it to the glue. Smooth the patch with your thumb or tire lever.

Note: A well patched tube is as good as new; however, wet tubes, wet glue, and poorly applied patches will not hold.