

# FAQs on Use of Spare Wheels and Tyres

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**Do all vehicles have a spare wheel?** No. The only vehicles that are required to carry a spare wheel are small public service vehicles, i.e. taxis and hackneys and the necessary tools for changing them. However, if you do carry a spare wheel it should be maintained in a roadworthy condition.

## What are the different wheel or tyre options if I get a puncture?

- A **'full size spare wheel'** can immediately replace any wheel on vehicle, will be the same size as other tyres, could be the same brand or a different brand with no limitations to speed and distance.
- A **'spare tyre, compact spare tyre or donut tyre'** should only be used to get to the nearest repair centre, are smaller and more lightweight and are usually limited to a maximum speed of 80 km/h.
- A **'run-flat tyre'** has a reinforced sidewall which allows continuous driving on a punctured tyre even if it has lost all its air and is limited to a maximum speed of 50 km/h.

**Can a space-saver tyre or run-flat tyre be used instead of a spare wheel?** Yes. Many vehicles are supplied with a space saver, run-flat tyre or a repair kit instead of a spare wheel. Repair kits include an aerosol based sealant inflation device. Always consult the manufacturer's manual before using these. Space saver wheels are intended for emergency purposes only. The speed rating affixed to such tyres should never be exceeded to prevent tyre failure.

**Does a vehicle need to have a spare tyre before it can be registered in Ireland?** No.

**Is it illegal to sell or supply a car without a spare wheel?** No.

**Is a repair kit with inflation device accepted as an alternative to the spare tyre?** Yes.

**Does the spare tyre have to be the same size as the other tyres on the vehicle?** No but at the roadworthiness test a vehicle will fail if the two tyres on the one axle are not the same size or type e.g. radial vs. cross-ply. For best performance the same type of tyre should be fitted in all four wheel positions.

**Can a temporary use spare tyre be fitted?** Yes, a temporary use spare tyre or wheel may be fitted to a passenger vehicle i.e. with passenger accommodation for not more than eight passengers provided that the vehicle is not driven at a speed exceeding 80 km/h and it is only used to get the vehicle to the nearest place of repair. It is not however permitted for any other class of vehicle e.g. public service vehicle, commercial vehicle, bus etc. A temporary use spare tyre or wheel must contain the following information:

**CAUTION! TEMPORARY USE ONLY! MAXIMUM 80 km/h! REPLACE BY NORMAL WHEEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DO NOT COVER THIS LABEL IN USE!**

**What are the requirements for a spare wheel to pass the roadworthiness test?**

- For passenger cars view [NCT Manual](#) or
- For light and heavy commercial vehicles view [CVRT Manuals](#)