

FAQs on the use of Spare Wheels and Tyres

By law, must all vehicles have a spare wheel (or equivalent)? 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 the same manner as the tyres fitted to the vehicle.

What are the different wheel/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/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/hr and a maximum distance of 50 miles.
- **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/hr and maximum distance of 50 miles.

Is it against the law to sell/supply a car without a spare wheel? No.

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.

Is a repair kit with inflation device accepted as an alternative to the spare tyre? The RSA would advise against using a repair kit with an inflation device as an alternative to a spare tyre. For further details on this please refer to UNECE Regulation 64 [here](#) in particular to sections 2.10 to 2.10.5 (Pages 5 and 6) for the types of temporary use spare wheels that are acceptable.

Does the spare tyre have to be the same size as the other tyres on all vehicles? 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. (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 80km/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! MAX. 80 km/h! REPLACE BY NORMAL WHEEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
DO NOT COVER THIS LABEL IN USE!**

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

What if a tyre is punctured on the broken down vehicle. Can it be towed? Yes, but the speed must not exceed 32km/h. and it must only be brought to the nearest convenient place of safety or repair.

What are the spare wheel requirements to pass the roadworthiness test? Please refer to Section 40 of the [NCT Manual](#) (Cars), or click [here](#) for CVRT Manuals for LCV(Light Commercial Vehicles) and HCV (Heavy Commercial Vehicles).