

If You Have a Flat Tire

How you handle a flat tire on the trail depends on how serious the tube or tire damage is, and what tools and supplies you have with you.

If you have a slow leak or a minor puncture, there are two ways to try making a temporary repair:

- Use an aerosol tire sealer to seal the puncture and inflate the tube. (This can be done without removing the tire or wheel.)
- Use a tube patch kit to repair the puncture. (This requires removing the tire.)

If the leak is more serious, or a temporary repair doesn't hold, the tube must be replaced. The tire will also need to be replaced if it is damaged (page 104). Replacing a tube or tire involves removing and re-installing the wheel (pages 97, 99).