

# How do I check my wheel bearings

Your wheel bearings are an essential component of your vehicle's suspension system. Without them, the wheels would not be able to rotate freely and smoothly. They also help absorb bumps in the road, so that you can ride in comfort on a long trip or drive over potholes without feeling them.

In order to keep your wheels rolling smoothly, it's important to check your wheel bearings periodically. If they're worn out, they can cause vibrations while driving or make a grinding noise when turning sharply. This can be dangerous if it happens while you're driving on a highway at high speeds!

## Lift the car with a jack and remove the wheel bearings.

To remove the wheel bearings, you'll need to jack up the car, then use an impact wrench to remove nuts that secure the hub assembly to the axle. After that, you can loosen and pull off the bearing.

Jack up your car and support it with jack stands on all four corners. Remove the wheels and set them aside.

Remove all of the lug nuts from each wheel, then use a large hammer to knock out any remaining pieces of stud from inside the hub assembly. You may need to use a hammer and punch to remove some of them.

Place an impact wrench over one nut on the rear axle hub assembly or front axle hub assembly (not both). Hit it with another hammer until it breaks free from its threads in the axle shafts. You'll want to do this step on both sides of your car so that you can remove both wheel bearings at once using this method.

## Check [wheel bearings](#) for play.

Wheel bearings are designed to last a long time, but they can fail. The first sign of a problem is when the car pulls to one side when you are driving straight down the road. It may also make a loud grinding noise when you turn the steering wheel. If the bearings have failed, you will feel a "thunk" or "clunk" as you drive over bumps in the road.

To check your wheel bearings, remove the hubcap and then use a pry bar or hammer to tap on each end of the axle shafts where they enter into their respective hubs. You should hear a solid thump sound when tapping on both sides of each axle shaft at once (front driver's side and rear passenger's). If either axle shaft makes a hollow sound when tapped, it might be time to replace your wheels or hub assemblies (or both).

If you do not have access to an impact wrench with which to remove lug nuts, then you should

consider having someone else do this job for you so that they can remove all four wheels at once without having to put an extra set of hands on each nut (or risk damaging your rims by using too much force).

## **Check for grease leaks.**

If you find any, it means that your wheel bearings are worn out and need replacing. This can be done at home with a little DIY know-how and a few tools.

If you're not sure how to check for grease leaks, you can always get someone else to do it for you. The guys at your local auto parts store are very knowledgeable about cars and will have no problem finding ways to help you out.

Check your brake pads. You should also check your brake pads regularly to make sure that they don't have any cracks or other problems that would cause them to wear out quickly or not work properly when needed most (like during an emergency stop). You should also make sure that the calipers aren't sticking due to an accumulation of dirt, grease or other debris inside them.

When changing your oil filter, don't forget to check the oil level in the reservoir. If it's low, add more oil until it reaches its normal level before starting up again so as not to damage any internal engine parts by running them dry.

## **Inspect the outside of the wheel bearings for visible damage.**

If you see any signs of physical damage, such as scratches, pitting or cracks, do not attempt to repair them yourself. The damage may be caused by a defective bearing or hub assembly and could become worse with continued use. Contact your local dealer or a certified repair facility immediately.

The outer surface of the bearings should be smooth, shiny and free from oil or grease. If you find any foreign matter on the surfaces, clean it off using a degreasing solvent such as brake cleaner or kerosene before inspecting the inner races for scoring or wear marks. If you find any scoring or wear marks inside either race, replace both sides at once since they were probably installed together.

Good quality aftermarket bearings have hard anodized aluminum shields that protect against corrosion and provide a smooth surface for easy bearing installation and removal. These shields often have serrated edges which help keep them sealed against dust and moisture intrusion during storage periods between uses.

## **Slightly rock the tires back and forth.**

If they are bad, you'll feel a lot of resistance. If they are good, there will be some resistance, but it should be fairly smooth.

If your vehicle has ABS brakes, you may notice that one side of the car hops more than the other when you push down on its brake pedal. This could be an indication of a problem with your wheel bearings.

You can also have your mechanic inspect your wheel bearings by using a dial indicator to measure excessive movement in the wheel hub assembly.

## **Regular inspection of wheel bearings is necessary.**

Regular inspection of wheel bearings is necessary. The wheel bearings are designed to last for the life of a vehicle and therefore do not need to be replaced unless there is a problem.

Wheel bearings are designed to be self-lubricating, so they should not need any additional lubrication. However, if you detect any unusual noises coming from the wheels, you should have the wheel bearings checked by a professional technician.

The first sign that something is wrong with your wheel bearings is when you notice that your steering wheel is shaking while driving on rough roads or trails. If this happens, it could mean that your wheel bearing has failed completely and needs to be replaced immediately.

Check your wheel bearings by turning the wheels in both directions, listen for a clunking sound and feel for a rough spot on the tires. The bearings run on the inner part of the wheel hub and allow the wheels to turn smoothly. If you are riding and hear clunking or feel a rough spot while turning, it could be your wheel bearings. The most common reason is that the bearings have become worn, allowing play in the hub or axle; which will cause them to heat up and make noise. Routine maintenance will prolong the life of your wheel bearings.