

How to Remove your Front Wheel

1. **Release Your Brakes:** If your bike has rim brakes or cantilever brakes, you will need to release the cable tension so you can remove your front wheel. For rim brakes, there should be a lever near the caliper that will release some cable tension, thus allowing your brake pads to be far enough from the rim for your tire to slide past them.
2. **Flip Your Bike Over:** Flipping your bike over to remove your wheels is ideal, unless you have a mechanic stand handy. When you are changing a flat tire on the side of the road or trail, allowing your bike to rest on the seat and handle bars will give you a more stable platform to work with. Flipping your bike over makes things a little easier and reduces the risk of your bike falling over after the wheel is removed.
3. **Open the Quick Release or Remove Axle:** If your bike has a quick release, flip the lever into the open position. If the lever is tight, you can use a tire lever to pry it open. Holding the lever still, loosen the bolt on the other side of the axle, but **DO NOT** remove the bolt completely. For thru axles, open the lever into the open position and turn the lever counter-clockwise to unthread the axle and remove it from the hub.
4. **Lift the Wheel Up and Out of the Fork:** Make sure you do not dislodge your calipers if you have rim brakes and be careful with rotors if you have disc brakes.

How to Reinstall Your Front Wheel

1. **Guide Your Wheel Back Into The Fork:** If you have rim brakes, be careful not to dislodge calipers when you reinstall your wheel. If you have disc brakes, guide the rotor in between the brake pads.
2. **Tighten the Axle:** If you have a quick release axle, settle the wheel completely into the dropouts. Make sure the quick release axle is on the non-drive side of the bike, matching the wheel. Holding the lever in place, tighten the nut on the opposite side and push the lever into the closed position. It should feel tight, but it should not be too difficult to close the lever. If you have a thru axle, line up your hub with the holes at the bottom of your fork. Look to see which side of the fork is threaded and push the axle in through the opposite side. Turn the lever clockwise to thread the axle into the fork. Once tight, push the lever into the closed position.
3. **Flip your bike over:** If you have cantilever or rim brakes, make sure your brake cable is reconnected or tightened properly.
4. **Spin your wheel:** By spinning your wheel, you will make sure your brake pads are not rubbing the rim or the rotor. If your wheel does not spin, it could be crooked in the fork's dropouts. Flip your bike back over, loosen your axle, push down on the wheel and tighten the axle again.

Replacing Your Rear Wheel

Removing and replacing a rear wheel on a bicycle can be more challenging than the front wheel because of the gear cogs and the derailleur. It is necessary to remove the rear wheel when making repairs to the tire or inner tube. When replacing a rear wheel, make sure you replace it with a wheel that has the same inner diameter.

Step 1

Pedal the bike and shift the gears on the bicycle to the high gear. This moves the chain to the smallest gear cog on the rear wheel.

Step 2

Loosen the tension screw on the rear brake shoes to open the brake.

Step 3

Grab the derailleur with your right hand and pull it back while rotating the quick-release lever to the open position with your left. The derailleur moves the chain from one cog to the other when shifting the gears.

Step 4

Pull the rear wheel off the ground while holding the derailleur back. Push the rear wheel forward and down until it releases from the rear forks.

Step 5

Place the chain of the smallest gear cog on the rear wheel replacement. Hold the derailleur back with your right hand and verify that the quick release remains open.

Step 6

Insert the replacement rear wheel into the rear forks of the bicycle. Center the wheel and verify that it is secured in the dropouts at the end of the forks.

Step 7

Close the quick release and tighten the tension screw on the rear brake shoe.