

Spare Me: Information Roadside Assistance Providers Need To Know About Abnormal Spare Tire Locations and Handling Instructions.

- The **Audi TT Roadster** does carry a spare tire and also has room for the flat tire if installed properly into the trunk. **To remove the spare tire**, lift up on the trunk floor mat in the middle and remove the spare tire, jack and lug wrench. With the floor mat up, install the deflated flat tire into the trunk spare tire well at an angle until the trunk lid will close. Use caution not to force the lid closed.
- DaimlerChrysler cautions that, **on Mercedes-Benz models** with rear disc brakes, the shorter bolts included in the factory-supplied tool kit **MUST** be used so the rear parking brake and ABS components are not damaged. Note that the bolts are found in the tool kit, not with the spare tire! DCX also advises that on all models after the spare wheel has been installed, rotate the wheel by hand to confirm that there are no clearance problems. If the wheel hangs or drags as it is being rotated, the lug bolts are too long. This same problem may be encountered on any vehicles that use bolts instead of lug nuts and are equipped with aftermarket custom wheels.
- There is nothing unconventional about the **Pontiac Aztek** spare tire, once you find it. The spare is located under the floor of the rear cargo area, a typical location for SUVs and minivans. The problem is that there is no obvious lifting tab or handle to raise the carpet and floor panel to access the tire, although the panel lifts in the usual manner, from the rear, at the lift gate. Look closely and feel around carefully. You will find the combination without too much difficulty.
- In the **BMW Z3, 2-seaters**, the spare tire is where you would expect it to be, under the floor in the rear luggage compartment, but is covered by two layers! Lifting the carpeting and the panel beneath gets you to the right spot, but there is another cover down there above the tire. This cover is designed in such a way that it appears the spare has already been removed. Several cases have been documented where a BMW was towed because the road service driver thought there was no spare. In at least one of these cases, the car was towed to a BMW dealer who also thought the spare was missing! The moral of this story is to look carefully and make sure all the covers are removed.
- The spare tire is found in unusual locations on the **2000-2006 Mazda MPV** and the **1999-2004 Honda Odyssey**. On the MPV, the spare is stowed under the body, but is located beneath the sliding door on the passenger side. The spare is located inside the passenger compartment on the Odyssey, but it is under a panel between the first and second rows of seating. The front seats must be moved all the way forward to gain access to the spare.

- On many **1999-2001 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickup trucks**, the spare tire was over-tightened when installed under the pickup bed, causing the tire to be nearly impossible to remove in the usual manner. General Motors advises that the tire can be lowered by removing the valve stem core and allowing the tire to deflate completely. Obviously, this will only be helpful if a supply of compressed air is available. Otherwise, the vehicle must be transported to a location where the spare tire can be inflated before use. To correct the condition, GM has developed a cross brace to be installed between the spare tire hoisting tube and the frame cross member, but no general recall has been issued to date. Therefore, many members may not be aware of this condition until the spare tire is needed!
- Most **Porsche sports cars** up until the 2005 model year came with a spare tire, the main exceptions being the Carrera GT2 and GT3 models, stowed in the front luggage compartment area of the vehicle. The deflated road wheel would not fit back in the same location as the spare tire and allow the front luggage compartment lid to close. Porsche Cars North America, under their roadside assistance program, did not want tires to be changed on their sport cars as the deflated road wheel would have to put in the passenger's compartment to be transport to a place of repair when the spare was installed on the vehicle. Starting in 2005, Porsche sports cars were not given a spare tire, instead they are equipped with an inflation kit containing a tube of liquid tire sealant, a valve core removal tool and a 12 volt compressor. This kit is to be used to seal a puncture up to ¼ inch in diameter.
- On **2005 and newer Honda Odyssey** minivans, the spare tire is stowed on its side on the driver's side of the rear cargo area under a removable trim panel. This applies to all models except the "Touring" edition which comes equipped with "Run-Flat" tires, consequently, a spare tire is not provided.
- **2006 Honda Ridgeline pickups** spare tires are stowed under the lockable portion of the pickup bed. To access the tire, open the tailgate using the release that allows the tailgate to swing open, not fold down. The release for this function is below the "Ridgeline" emblem on the rear tail gate, between the tail gate and the bumper. On the bumper cover, the word "RELEASE" is molded into the cover. Open the rear storage compartment in the cargo bed, the vehicle key may be required as this is a lockable compartment. With the lid raised, you will see a portion of the spare tire. To further access the tire, remove the two wing bolt fasteners holding the spare tire tray in place and slide the whole tray rearward this will also gain access to the factory supplied jack and tire tools as they are stored attached to the spare tire. Remove the tire hold down bolt and remove the spare tire. Once the tire has been changed, you need to stow the spare tire properly as it will not fit in the space the spare tire was stowed. The proper stow location for the deflated road wheel is standing up along the passenger's side of the cargo bed. Just forward of the right rear wheel area in the cargo box there is a removable plug in the bed liner. Remove this plug to reveal the hold down bolt receiver for

the deflated road wheel. Using the hold down bolt for the spare tire, secure the road wheel in an upright position to the side of the cargo box. Place all other items back in their original location.

- There had been an increase in the number of vehicles using “Run-Flat” tires as original equipment along with an increase in the number of vehicles that are being equipped with a tire inflation system instead of a spare tire. Below is a list of vehicles that may not have a factory installed spare tire:
 - Audi Q7 – Inflation system
 - 2006 BMW 3 Series 4 door models – Run-Flat tires
 - 2004-06 BMW M5 – Run-Flat tires
 - BMW 6 Series – Run-Flat tires
 - BMW Z4 – Run-Flat tires
 - 2005-06 Chevrolet Corvette – Run-Flat tires
 - 2006 Mazda MX-5 Miata – Inflation system
 - 2004-06 Mazda RX-8 – Inflation system
 - 2005-06 Porsche vehicles – Inflation system
 - 2004-06 Rolls Royce Phantom – Run-Flat tires
 - 2005-06 Honda Odyssey Touring Edition – Run-Flat tires
 - 2005-06 Lexus GS models – Run-Flat tires
 - 2004-06 Volkswagen Touareg – Inflation system
 - 2004-06 Infiniti Q45 – Run-Flat tires
 - 2005-06 Mercedes SLR McLaren – Inflation system

This is not an exhaustive list, there may be other vehicles that were not equipped with a spare tire from the manufacturer. As manufacturers look at ways to decrease the weight of their vehicles, other models will be added to this list.