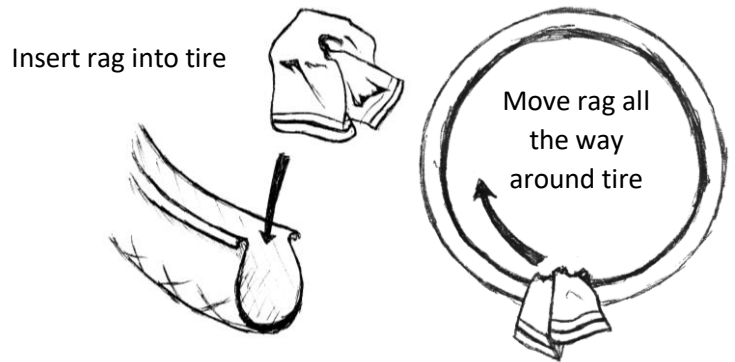


Preparing a tire for installation

1. Clean tire

Insert a clean rag into the interior of the tire and run it through one whole rotation to check for sharp objects that may be lodged in the tire (e.g., thorns, broken glass, metal shards). Using the rag will prevent accidental injury to one's hands from sharp objects.



2. Remove sharp objects from tire

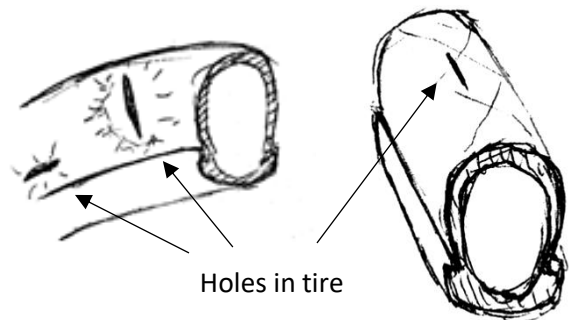
Using the scratch awl (aka dental pick), inspect the entire circumference of the tire for sharp objects. To loosen and remove any objects you find lodged in the tire, insert the scratch awl at the edge of the object to get under it and dislodge it.



Scratch awl (aka dental pick)

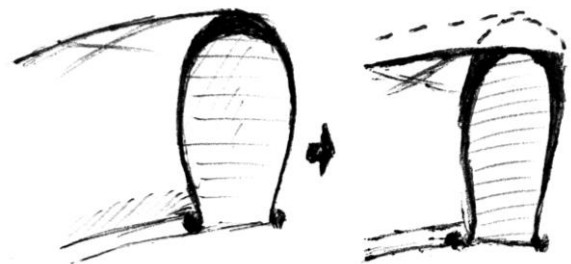
3. Check for holes in tire

Inspect the exterior of the tire to ensure there aren't large holes in it. If a hole measures more than 2-3 millimeters in any dimension, the tire probably needs to be replaced. A temporary repair for small holes in the tire tread is a tire boot (i.e., basically a patch on the inside of the tire). Holes in the sidewall are generally not repairable and usually necessitate replacing the tire.



4. Check wear of tire

The tire should have a round profile to it. With regular use of the tire, it can slowly flatten and start to become rectangular-like. Worn tires are more likely to be punctured by sharp objects, so replacing them with new tires is best. In addition to wear, tires can become too dry over time. Lots of deep cracks in a tire indicate that a tire should be replaced.



Deep cracks in tire

