



Wheel nuts too tight!

“I recently had the misfortune to get a puncture, but had to call my emergency service out as I could not remove the wheel nuts. I had only had the tyre replaced a month before so why was it so hard to remove”?

When we re-fit a wheel to a car we have to torque (tightness) the wheel nuts up to the correct setting as recommended by the manufacture. We have a specialised adjustable torque wrench which does this for us, which we use on all cars. However when you come to take the wheel off you are supplied with a rather smaller wrench to take the nuts off! And as you can imagine with all the will in the world on certain cars with very high torque settings it's just not going to happen.

Other reasons being:

- the nuts were over tightened when the wheel was replaced. (not by us)
- Oxidisation – where the nuts have reacted with the hub, or if the wheels haven't been removed in a very long time the nuts can rust into the hub.

In the same instance if a wheel has not been removed for along time, even though you can get the nuts off, you may not be able to get the wheel off the hub. This is where a rather large rubber hammer comes in useful. In this instance we would clean up the hub and the wheel and place a small amount of copper grease around the hub. This will prevent this from happening again. The same cannot be done with the nuts! We can clean the nuts up and also clean the thread in the hub, but that is it.

The solution! You can buy an extendable wrench. The way it works is when you put the wheel on to tighten up the nut you keep it as short as it will go. But to remove it you extend it to its full length which gives you greater force. Just like they said in your physics lessons, and you thought you would never use physics again. We sell these extendable wrenches for £7.99 incl. However you could just use a long piece of tubing which you can put over your old wrench and this will have the same effect.

Yet again please be aware that this is only our opinion. Please write in with your questions to T.W. Tyres, 11 Paynes Lane, Rugby, CV21 2UH, or email us on info@twtyres.com. We are open Monday to Friday 8am till 5.30pm and Saturday is 8am till 3pm. For tyres, exhausts, batteries and motorbike enquiries please call us on 542292. For servicing, repairs and car MOTs you can contact us on 544339.