

HOW TO REPLACE A BLOWN HEADLIGHT BULB

So you know how to replace a light bulb at home. Replacing one on the car must be the same right? Well, kind of, there's more to it that can cause you a much greater headache for sure. But it's not so complex that you should want to pay a car shop a bunch of money to take care of it.

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EARN THIS NUGGET

- Find a willing party that will allow you to “mock” replace their headlight bulb, so you can go through the motions.
- Consider purchasing and storing a spare bulb for when the bulb blows (a matter of when, not if) and talk to the vehicle owner about this. Bulbs are relatively inexpensive, and it's a good idea to have a spare.

LEVEL K

PERIOD 6

TASK 2

Now, there can be a lot of variation from one car manufacturer to another, but the general rules should be similar. It's always a good idea to consult the owner's manual.

- Open the hood. This is almost always the way to access the bulb. You are going to go in from the back of the light to change out the bulb.
- It's recommended that you always disconnect the battery before doing any work on the electrical system of the car. While you are unlikely to get any sort of a shock, this is a general recommendation.
- Identify the rear of the light. Is it accessible? If not, you'll want to remove any trim that encapsulates it. Take care removing items, you need to know how and where they go back, and with what hardware. It's a useful trick to take pictures as you disassemble so you have step-by-step visuals for re-assembly.
- There will be an electrical cable that plugs into the rear of the headlight. Remove this. You may have to depress a release in the clip that prevents it from shaking loose.
- Remove the bulb, there may be a metal spring clip holding this, or it may rotate counter clockwise and lock (often referred to as a bayonet fitting).
- The replacement bulb is almost certainly a halogen bulb, super bright, but if you touch it with your fingers, you will ruin it. Wear gloves or make sure you only touch the plastic. If you do accidentally touch it with your fingers, wipe it down with rubbing alcohol and dry it immediately.
- Insert and lock the new bulb. Afterwards, replace the cable and any other parts that you had to remove.

