



# SAFETY WARNING

**Never get under a vehicle that is supported by a jack.**

Before lifting the vehicle, chock the wheels that will remain on the ground and don't get under the vehicle until it is supported by support stands.

## USE THE RIGHT JACK FOR THE JOB

Read the safety warnings on the jack and follow the manufacturer's advice. Check the weight capacity of the jack and do not exceed it—the jack could fail and place you in danger.

A **trolley jack** should be used to lift a vehicle in order to place support stands underneath it. When using a trolley jack, refer to the vehicle workshop manual to identify the correct lifting point.

A **vehicle specific jack** is normally supplied with your vehicle for the purpose of changing a flat tyre. Check that the jack is marked with the name or trademark of the vehicle manufacturer and matches the model of the vehicle that it will be used with.

A vehicle jack is not intended for repair work. Never use a vehicle jack for raising a vehicle to work underneath it.

**Large vehicles**, such as 4WDs, may be too heavy for smaller jacks to lift safely. Always check the jack's label to ensure that its maximum load capacity is sufficient to support the vehicle you are lifting.

## MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARDS

Manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers of vehicle and trolley jacks must ensure their products comply with the mandatory safety standards which specify design, construction, performance and marking requirements. The marking requirements include a safety warning not to get under a vehicle that is supported by a jack, but it is the responsibility of the consumer to take notice of the warning and use the product safely in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Vehicle and trolley jack suppliers can obtain more information on mandatory standards by calling the ACCC Infocentre 1300 302 502 or visiting [www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au).



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

## For further information contact

ACCC Infocentre on  
1300 302 502  
[www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au)

GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601

**Important notice.** The information in this brochure is general in nature and may not be relevant to your specific circumstances. While the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has made every reasonable effort to provide current and accurate information, readers should be aware that the ACCC accepts no liability for any loss or damage whatsoever attributable to reliance upon any of that information. Nothing in this book should be taken to displace the need to seek professional advice. The ACCC recommends that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use.

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# SAFETY ALERT

## WORKING UNDER A VEHICLE



**DON'T BE A JACKASS  
WITH JACKS**

# DEATH AND INJURY RISK

## WORKING UNDER A VEHICLE

Working under a vehicle that is supported by a jack can be fatal. In Australia, over the last decade at least 46 people have been crushed and killed by a vehicle they were working under.

Most of the deaths were men and involved the vehicle being lifted or supported in the wrong way. Home mechanics are most at risk of this type of death or injury.

In most cases, the vehicles were not properly supported with vehicle support stands. This resulted in the vehicle falling on top of the worker.

In some cases, the vehicles were not secured with wheel chocks and the vehicles rolled on top of them.

On average, 160 injuries are associated with jacks each year. Injuries have ranged from amputation to fractures and crush injuries.

The correct use of jacks can prevent death or injury.

**DON'T BE A JACKASS WITH JACKS.**  
Protect yourself—follow the safety guidelines in this brochure.



# DON'T BE A JACKASS WITH JACKS

FATAL CRUSH INJURIES OCCUR WHEN A VEHICLE SLIPS FROM A JACK AND CRUSHES THE WORKER UNDERNEATH

## WORKING UNDER A VEHICLE

### SAFETY GUIDELINES

#### RAISING A VEHICLE USING A TROLLEY JACK

##### RAISING THE VEHICLE

- Park the vehicle on a hard level surface.
- Before raising the vehicle, the unlifted wheels of the vehicle should be chocked. If applicable, apply the park brake.
- Refer to the workshop manual to locate the lifting point to position the jack under your vehicle. If the incorrect lifting point is used, the jack could slip or tip.
- Watch carefully while raising the vehicle. Check that the head plate of the trolley jack is sitting squarely on the point you are lifting, and make sure the jack is able to roll slightly to allow for the change of angle as the vehicle is raised.

##### USE SUPPORT STANDS

- Locate the correct contact points for the stands. Position the support stands and slowly lower the jack until the vehicle rests on them.
- Ensure the vehicle is sitting securely on the support stands before getting under the vehicle.

##### CAUTION

- Never place any part of your body under a raised vehicle until it is sitting on support stands or vehicle ramps.
- Do not allow a person or a pet to remain in a vehicle that is being jacked.
- Do not exceed the weight capacity of the jack.

## VEHICLE SUPPORT STANDS

Use vehicle support stands to provide stability to your vehicle when it is raised. Jacks do not provide adequate stability when you're getting under a car. Never use bricks and timber blocks as substitutes for support stands.



## WHEEL CHOCKS

Chocking the wheels is an important safety precaution to prevent the vehicle from moving or rolling. When using jacks, ramps or vehicle support stands, always use wheel chocks on the wheels remaining in contact with the ground.



## VEHICLE RAMPS

Vehicle ramps can provide an alternative method for raising a vehicle. Ramps should be used on a hard level surface, preferably concrete. The ramps should be used in pairs. Place wheel chocks under the wheels on the ground so that the vehicle cannot roll off the ramps.

