

Safety Instructions – Steel Wheels

Note that we supply replacement nuts on the explicit understanding that you have carried out some basic checks. We do not have access to your vehicle so it is your responsibility to ensure that your wheels and studs are in a serviceable condition and your new nuts are correctly fitted.

Safety Checks – LR/RR Steel Wheels

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you read these notes and carry out the necessary checks before fitting new wheel nuts.

1. Check that your wheels and studs are serviceable before fitting new nuts. Do not fit new nuts to worn wheels without carrying out these checks.
2. Check that the threads on the studs are in good condition and the nuts screw on smoothly without the nut being excessively tight or loose.
3. The Defender workshop manual recommends that lubrication is not applied to the threads.
4. Check that the fixing holes in the wheels have not suffered excessive wear. The tapered seat on the nuts should be a close fit with the taper in the wheels.
5. Check that the wheel studs are long enough to allow no less than 16mm of penetration into the wheel nut. On an open ended nut the stud should be almost flush with the top of the nut or protrude slightly. If the end of the stud is well below the top of the nut you may need to fit longer studs to achieve the required amount of contact. For capped nuts see below. If in doubt, ask us.

Capped Steel Wheel Nuts – Extra Checks

Capped wheel nuts are excellent because they protect the studs, prevent stud corrosion and look great. They do have one disadvantage in that you can't see how much contact there is between the stud and the nut. Please carry out these extra checks.

- 1 Check that the studs are not too long, causing the end of the stud to bottom out on the capped end of the nut as this will prevent the nut from clamping the wheel to the hub correctly. The WN1615LRS and WN916BSF range of nuts, in plain, polished or plated finishes, will accept up to 26mm of stud inside the nut. Capped nuts fitted onto long studs may feel tight but they may be tightening on the studs only, leaving the wheel loose. **THIS IS DANGEROUS.**
- 2 If in doubt, jack a wheel off the ground and fit one nut only and torque it up. Lever the wheel from side to side by hand to make sure it is clamped tightly to the hub. If it feels loose, remove the nuts and contact us. If the wheel feels securely clamped to the hub with just one nut fitted, proceed to fit the rest. When driving, if you hear any noises from the wheels, a bit like travelling over gravel, please stop and check the wheel nuts.

Fitting Instructions

1. Fit the nuts and torque them up to the manufacturers recommended torque **USING A TORQUE WRENCH. DO NOT RELY ON HAND TIGHTENING** even with a long socket extension as this can overtighten the nuts. The Defender workshop manual recommends a torque of 100 Nm (80 lb-ft) when fitting steel wheels to a Defender.
2. You should always **TIGHTEN WHEEL NUTS USING A TORQUE WRENCH**, check the torque after 200 miles and periodically thereafter.

Extra Care for Plated or Polished Wheel Nuts

When you fit plated or hand polished wheel nuts please follow the instructions above but also note the following:

1. The plating on plated nuts is very tough but can chip if abused and this may lead to localised corrosion.
2. The highly polished surface of polished nuts can scratch if treated roughly. They will not corrode but this will spoil the excellent appearance.
3. **NEVER** use an air gun or impact driver and **ALWAYS** use a torque wrench to fit wheel nuts.
4. We recommend using a deep six-sided socket rather than a shallow 12 corners socket.
5. The nuts are supplied wrapped in paper towels; please place a towel over the nut and push the socket over the towel to protect the plating/finish when tightening up.
6. If you want to be really careful, particularly with polished nuts, wrap a layer or two of aluminium foil (Bacofoil) on the nut head before sliding on the socket.
7. 316 stainless nuts should never tarnish so should not require polishing again but should this be required please use a polish suitable for stainless steel that has no ferrous content as this can cause the stainless to show signs of surface corrosion. Alternatively, please return them to us and we will re-polish them free of charge if you pay the postage.

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