

Choosing a Portable Battery Solution



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Getting out and about in your 4WD

Getting out and about in your 4WD can be great fun but eventually, there will be a time when you get yourself into a sticky situation. A successful 4WD recovery takes the right equipment and know-how to get everybody out quickly and without incident. We have put together this list of do's and Don'ts to get you and your vehicle back on track safely.

DON'T rush into it

Recovering a 4WD is a stressful situation. It is important that you take a moment to assess the situation carefully and decide on the safest and easiest option for recovery. Before jumping into your recovery, check all your equipment thoroughly and inspect the stuck vehicle carefully to make sure there are no avoidable surprises during recovery.

DO use only rated recovery points

Very few 4WDs come straight from the factory with rated recovery points. At a glance, your car may look like it has points suitable for recovering, but in most cases, these are only tie down points. Take a good look at your points, if they aren't made from thick metal and robustly secured with strong mounts, they shouldn't be used for recovering. If you are still unsure what your points are, check the owner's manual, it will usually tell you what's what on your vehicle.

DON'T skip the prep work

It might not be the easiest job but taking a few minutes to dig around the wheels of a stuck 4WD dramatically reduces the amount of strain put on your recovery gear. Make sure you dig out space in front of all 4 wheels to give the vehicle the best chance at popping back to the surface.

DO have the right equipment

Having the right gear can make your 4WD recovery a breeze.

Having the wrong gear could ruin your trip completely. Make sure any equipment you use during a recovery is stamped or tagged with a rating. This includes shackles, straps, trunk protectors, winches, hooks, snatch blocks and anything else you plan to use. When it comes to safe recovering, if it's not rated, don't risk it!

DON'T ignore your tyre pressures

Tyre pressures are the easiest way to make a quick, safe recovery in sand. Before attempting any sort of recovery, it is important to check that the 4WD is running on the correct tyre pressures. Letting a little extra air out of the tyres can make a huge difference during a recovery, so be sure to double check.

DO use your equipment correctly

One of the biggest mistakes people make during a recovery is to use the equipment incorrectly. Recovering a vehicle can be dangerous so it is vital to understand how to use your equipment correctly so your 4WD, and everyone in the area stays safe. If you are a novice, travel with someone more experienced where possible and be familiar with how to use your gear before you head off on your trip.

DON'T recover in reverse

Recovering in reverse won't do your 4WD any favours. Your 4WD's gearbox isn't as powerful in reverse as it is in 1st or 2nd gear. Where possible,

to avoid unnecessary strain on your gearbox, turn your vehicle around and recover going forwards

DO speak up in dangerous situations

If you see someone attempting a dodgy recovery it is worth speaking up about it. Safety is paramount during a 4WD recovery but unfortunately, not everyone thinks of 'safety first' in these instances. It may not be the easiest thing to do but speaking up might avoid a potentially dangerous situation.

DON'T go full speed

Too often the first instinct during recovery is to take off full speed when snatching another vehicle out. This can put both vehicles at risk of damage. Start off slow and progress to a quicker speed if you don't recover the vehicle on the first attempt. As a general guide, start out with 1-2 metres of slack in the strap and take off with the stuck vehicle slowing spinning its wheels.

When you are the one stuck, don't your foot on the accelerator. If your wheels are turning but you aren't going forward, you will sink. Gently turn the wheels and with a bit of luck, you should pop right out.

With the right equipment, a bit of education and a good deal of common sense you will be able to safely get yourself, and your 4WD buddies, out of any sticky situation you come across.

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