WHAT DO TRACTION ADVISORIES MEAN?

Traction Tires Advised:
Oversize loads prohibited from roadways. Commercial Vehicle Services and load information: wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle

Traction Tires Required:
All passenger vehicles must have approved traction tires.* Chains required on all vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds, including large passenger trucks, SUVs and RVs.

Tire Chains Required:
All vehicles must have approved tire chains, except four- and all-wheel-drive vehicles.** Violators face a $500 fine.

Chains Required On All Vehicles:
During extreme weather, ALL vehicles must install chains when this is posted — even 4WD/AWD.

Anyone traveling through high elevations or winter conditions should carry chains in their vehicle. When weather conditions are extreme, ALL vehicles may be required to install chains — even 4WD/AWD. Studied tires do not meet chain requirements.

* Approved traction tires must have at least an eighth of an inch of tread and be labeled M+S, All Season, or have a Mountain/Snowflake symbol. These tires can be used all year. When you install approved chains, any tire becomes a traction tire. For more information on traction tire options, contact your local tire dealer.

** 4WD and AWD must still CARRY chains during this advisory level or face a violation and fine. (Washington Administrative Code 204-24-050)

APPROVED ALTERNATIVE TRACTION DEVICES

The following are state-approved alternative traction devices. Consult your owner’s manual and the Washington State Patrol website www.wsp.wa.gov/driver/vehicle-equipment-requirements/

Passenger vehicles
- AutoSock
- Grip Tex
- ISSE Safety
- Polaire Grip
- Polaire Steel
- SOS Grip

Front wheel drive vehicles only
- Easy Grip EVO

Commercial vehicles (less than five axles)
- AutoSock
- ISSE Safety

Commercial vehicles (five or more axles)
- AutoSock

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: Subscribe, Follow, Listen

Download the WSDOT app or subscribe to email or text alerts: wsdot.wa.gov/inform
- Follow WSDOT social media accounts: wsdot.wa.gov/inform
- Call 511 for travel information and mountain pass conditions
- Program your radio to WSDOT’s Highway Advisory Radio: 530 AM and 1610 AM
- WSDOT Winter Info.: wsdot.com/winter
- WSDOT Newsroom: wsdot.wa.gov/news
- Mountain Pass Reports:
  - Online: wsdot.com/traffic/passes
  - Twitter: @wsdot_passes
- Cameras & Traffic Alerts: wsdot.com/traffic
- Weather: wsdot.com/traffic/weather
WINTER TRAVEL: PREPARE, EQUIP, FILL UP

Winter travel can be tough on you and your car. Are you prepared? Make sure you:

• Get a winter maintenance check-up. Check your tires, battery, belts, hoses, radiator, lights, brakes, heater/defroster and wipers.
• Talk to your tire dealer about which tires are the best match for your car and your travel.
• Fill up your gas tank before heading out, so you’ll have plenty of gas if delayed in a road closure.

WHAT TO CARRY IN YOUR CAR

Because you never know when you will encounter winter weather or emergency road closure?

- first aid kit
- jumper cables
- ice scraper/snow brush
- water/snacks
- boots/gloves/warm clothes
- music/games

PRESENTS full tank of gas
flashlight
flares
tire chains

WINTER TRAVEL: ON THE ROAD

- Carry chains. Find out which chains (includes cable chains), or approved alternatives, fit your vehicle and practice installing them.
- Studded tires do NOT meet the chain requirement. Even vehicles equipped with studded tires need to carry chains in winter conditions.

DRIVING IN SNOW AND ICE

- Slow down and drive for conditions.
- Turn on headlights.
- Focus on driving. Don’t use cruise control.
- Leave extra room between vehicles.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots.
- Snowplow drivers have a limited field of vision. Stay back 15 car lengths until you’re sure it is safe to pass or until the plow pulls off the road.
- Obey chain up notices - violators face a $500 fine. Many pass closures are due to slide outs from drivers without proper equipment.
- Not confident about your vehicle or winter driving skills? Consider delaying travel plans.

STUDED TIRE INFORMATION

Washington only allows studded tires from Nov. 1 through March 31. There is no individual exception to the studded tire dates and violators face a $136 fine. WSDOT may extend the deadline if forecasts indicate severe winter weather conditions are likely across much of the state.