

What do traction advisories mean?

Traction Tires Advised:

Oversize loads now prohibited from roadways. For Commercial Vehicle Services and load information, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle.



TRACTION
TIRES
ADVISED

Traction Tires Required:

When you see this, all passenger vehicles must have **approved traction tires**. And, chains are required on all vehicles over 10,000 gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), including large passenger trucks and SUVs over 10,000 GVWR.



TRACTION
TIRES
REQUIRED



An **approved traction tire**, whether on a four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicle or a standard vehicle, 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 your specific vehicle and its traction tire options, contact your local tire dealer.

Tire Chains Required

When this advisory is posted all vehicles must have approved tire chains, except four- and all-wheel drive vehicles.

In extreme weather conditions, the advisory may indicate chains are required on four- and all-wheel drive vehicles. Please remember, studded tires do not meet the chain requirement.



TIRE
CHAINS
REQUIRED

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: Subscribe, Follow, Listen



- Follow on Twitter or Facebook for mountain pass, traffic reports and other winter travel information. Subscribe to email or text alerts. Learn more at: www.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 information: www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter
- WSDOT Newsroom: www.wsdot.wa.gov/news
- Mountain Pass Reports: www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes
- Cameras and Traffic Alerts: www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic
- Weather: www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/weather

Check Your Route



www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter

2011-2012 Winter Driving Guide



WHAT'S INSIDE

- How to prepare for winter driving
- What to carry on winter trips
- Tires and chains
- Roadway advisories

Winter Travel Checklist:

- Winter travel can be tough on car and driver. Check your **tires** before the first winter storm and check tire pressure during cold weather. Remember, tire shops and mechanics are busiest just before and during winter storms.
- Get a vehicle winter **maintenance check-up**. Don't wait to check your **tires, battery, belts, hoses, radiator, lights, brakes, heater/defroster and wipers**.
- Keep your fuel tank full – don't let it fall below half a tank on winter trips.
- Keep a **basic winter survival kit** in your vehicle: **flashlight, batteries, blanket, snacks, water, gloves, boots, first aid kit**.
- Load your car with **winter travel gear: tire chains, ice scraper/snowbrush, jumper cables, road flares**.
- See more winter preparedness tips at www.takewinterbystorm.org.

Mountain Travel: Tires and Chains

- Talk to your local tire dealer and find out if your tires are **traction tires**.
- **All drivers should carry chains**. Find out which chains are the best fit for your vehicle and practice installing them.
- Vehicles over 10,000 gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), including some larger passenger trucks, SUVs, RVs, and vehicles towing trailers, must carry chains Nov. 1 through March 31.
- When WSDOT posts the **"Chains Required"** advisory, all vehicles must have chains (except four-wheel and all-wheel drive). In extreme weather conditions, the tire chain requirement may include four-wheel and all wheel-drive vehicles. **Studded tires do NOT meet the chain requirement**. If your vehicle cannot accommodate chains, you must wait until WSDOT removes the tire chain requirement.

Studded Tire Information

Washington allows studded tires Nov. 1 through March 31. All who travel in Washington must follow Washington's roadway laws. There is no individual exception to the studded tire law. WSDOT may extend the deadline if forecasts indicate severe winter weather conditions are likely across much of the state.

Driving In Snow and Ice

- **On ice and snow, take it slow**. Drive for conditions - slower speeds, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking in winter conditions.
- Use your headlights.
- Don't use cruise control.
- Four-wheel and all-wheel vehicles do not stop or steer better in icy conditions than two-wheel drive vehicles.
- Leave extra room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. And remember, the larger the vehicle, the longer the stopping distance.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges, or shady spots.
- If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay behind it until it is safe to pass. Remember that a snowplow driver has 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.
- Slow down and be extra cautious near the chain-up and removal areas. There are often people out of their vehicles.

Why Is The Road Closed?

- Don't be the driver who shuts down the pass. Most of the time, the pass is closed to remove blocking vehicles. **It takes only one unprepared or careless driver to slow or stop traffic**.
- Avalanche Control: When possible avalanche control work is scheduled at night when traffic volumes are low. WSDOT attempts to provide advance notice, but in an emergency, it's not always possible.
- Road Clearing: If there is heavy snow in a short amount of time, road crews may close the pass to clear ice and snow from the travel lanes.

