

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
ADVISED

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.

TRACTION
TIRES
REQUIRED

Tire Chains Required:

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

TIRE
CHAINS
REQUIRED

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

* **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.

** Washington Administrative Code 204-24-050: Exception for all-wheel-drive vehicles. When "chains required" signs are posted, all-wheel-drive vehicles will be exempt from the chain requirement when all wheels are in gear and are equipped with approved traction devices as specified in WAC 204-24-040 provided that tire chains for at least one set of drive tires are carried in the vehicle.

17-09-0357

Approved Alternative Traction Devices (vehicles less than five axles):

The following are state-approved alternative traction devices. Consult your owner's manual and the Washington State Patrol website: www.wsp.wa.gov/traveler/traction.htm

Passenger vehicles

- Autosocks
- Polaire Grip

Front wheel drive vehicles only

- Polaire Steel Grip
- Easy Grip
- Grip-Tex
- SOS Grip

Commercial vehicles (less than five axels)

- Autosocks

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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: <https://wsdot.com/traffic/passes>
 - Twitter: @wsdot_passes
- Cameras & Traffic Alerts: <https://wsdot.com/traffic>
- Weather: <https://wsdot.com/traffic/weather>



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 **WSDOT**



2017-2018 Winter Driving Guide

WHAT'S INSIDE

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



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.

Winter Travel: On the Road

- Carry chains. Find out which 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.



Studded Tire Information

Washington only allows studded tires Nov. 1 through March 31. There is no individual exception to the studded tire law 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.

Driving in Snow and Ice

- On ice and snow, slow down and drive for conditions.
- Turn on headlights.
- Focus on driving. Don't use cruise control.
- Leave extra room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots.
- Remember, 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.

