**Suggested Use of Tire Chains:**

1. Pull off highway to a safe place to install or remove chains.

2. Always inspect each chain carefully to remove any tangles or twists prior to installation. Breakage in link chains is caused by driving on twisted links, driving at speeds greater than 50 km/h for a prolonged period and extended driving on dry pavement.

3. Carry rubber adjusters to keep chains snug and tight.

4. Do not exceed 50 km/h while using chains.

5. Make sure your tire chains are properly sized. Proper fit is the key to performance.

6. Always pre-fit your chains to your vehicle before they are actually needed. While winter chains are uniform in size, tires are not. Tires vary in size by manufacturer, age, tread and type. Winter tires may require a larger set of chains than a like-sized highway tire.

**Legend**

- Driving axle (with chains)
- Non-driving axle (without chains)
- Driving axle (without chains)
  - Wheel with chains
  - Wheel without chains
- Drive axle must be chained
- Single axles must be chained. (All four wheels with chains.)
- Both axles must be chained. (All four wheels with chains.)

**Buses / Recreational Vehicles**
(Articulated buses must also chain outside wheels of last axle.)

**Trucks - 5 Axles or Less**

- 3 Axle - Straight Truck / Tractor Unit
- 5 Axle - Semi Combination

**Trucks - 6 Axles or More**

- 6 Axle - Tri-axle
- 7 Axle - B-Train
- 8 Axle - Super B-Train

**Current Road Conditions**
[www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)

**TRUCKS AND VEHICLE COMBINATIONS OVER 27,000 KG LICENSED GKW MUST CARRY TIRE CHAINS BEYOND THIS POINT OCTOBER 1 TO APRIL 30 NO EXCEPTIONS**

**BC**

1-800-550-4997
Chain Requirements

Revised 1/16

Vehicles are permitted in chain control areas when equipped with chains or Automatic Traction Device (ATD) as indicated. Tire traction devices are defined in the California Vehicle Code (VC) Section 605 which include conventional link-type tire chains and cable chains, as well as other less conventional devices. When the term “chains” is used here, it means any "tire traction device" (not necessarily link type chain) which meets the requirements of VC Section 605.

Vehicles with cable chains as well as other less conventional devices are legal in California. However, these may be restricted at times due to local conditions.

Minimum legal tread depth for mud and snow tires is 6/32 of an inch. Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) reserve the right to prohibit any vehicle from entering a chain control area when it’s determined that the traction devices don’t meet the requirements of VC Section 605.

LEGEND
- Driving axle
- Non-driving axle
- Wheel with chain or ATD
- Wheel with no chain or ATD
- Drive axle must be chained.
- Chains on trailers may be staggered front and back.
- Caltrans and CHP may require chains on all drive wheels if conditions warrant.
- Both axles must be chained (four wheels with chains or ATD).
- Chains required on inside dual (if possible).

NOTES
- All vehicles, including four-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicles, must carry chains upon entering a chain control area.
- All vehicles, including four-wheel drive vehicles that are towing trailers, must have chains on one drive axle.
- Trailers with brakes must have chains on one axle.
- Front wheel drive vehicles must have chains on both axles.
- On any semi-trailer, only one set of chains is required, regardless of the number of axles.
- Chains are not required on tag axle.
- Trucks or tractors equipped with supersingles, chains are required on all drive wheels.

Acceptable on either axle of semi-trailers.
COLORADO CHAIN UP TIPS

The information on this page applies to all Colorado state, federal, and interstate highways.

**Carrying Chains on I-70 (effective March 1, 2009)** Commercial vehicles operating on I-70 in either direction between mileposts 133 (Dotsero) and 259 (Morrison) from Sept. 1 to May 31 must carry sufficient chains at all times to be in compliance with the Colorado chain law. *This is the only area in Colorado in which chains must be carried during the specified season.*

**Definitions** Under the Colorado chain law, a commercial vehicle is defined as being used in commerce to transport passengers or property and fitting into one of the following categories:

- Has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more lbs. inclusive of a towed unit which has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 lbs.; or
- Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more lbs.; or
- Is designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

**Chain Law Level 1/Code 17** All single drive axle combination commercial vehicles must chain all four drive wheels; cables are not permitted as ATDs. All other commercial vehicles must have snow tires or chains. Level 1/Code 17 may be implemented any time there is snow covering any part of the traveled portion of pavement on an ascending grade.

**Chain Law Level 2/Code 18** All commercial vehicles must chain up. Single drive axle and tandem drive axle combination commercial vehicles must chain four drive wheels. Autotransports must comply to the extent possible without causing damage to hydraulic lines. Buses must chain two drive wheels to comply. Level 2/Code 18 may be implemented any time there is snow covering the entire traveled portion of pavement on an ascending grade, or when driving conditions dictate that this level is necessary to protect safety and to

**Notification** When the chain law is in effect, drivers will be notified which vehicles must chain up and where by the following means: electronic message signs; 511 traveler information; www.cotrip.org; and media outlets.

**Chaining Up** Metal chains must consist of two circular metal loops, one on each side of the tire, connected by not less than nine evenly-spaced chain loops across the tread. Commercial vehicles that have four or more drive wheels must chain four wheels. Dual tire chains are acceptable.

**Alternate Traction Devices (ATDs)** Approved ATDs in Colorado are wheel sanders, which must carry enough sand to get the vehicle through the restricted area; pneumatically driven chains, which spin under the drive wheels automatically as traction is lost; and textile traction device (TTD), a fabric boot which encompasses the tire. Currently, the only TTD that has been approved for use on Colorado state highways is the AutoSock.

**Tire Cables** With only two exceptions, Colorado chain law rules do not permit tire cables as alternate traction devices. The exceptions are: 1) tire cables with high strength steel cross member rollers 0.415” or greater in diameter, which can be used on all commercial vehicles except single drive axle combinations; and 2) on a tandem power drive axle commercial vehicle, where any type of cable can be used only if there are chains on the two outside tires of one of the power drive axles and cables on two or more tires of the other power drive axle.

**FAQs**

**Are chains required for trailers?** No.

**Must hazardous material tankers and transporters comply with the chain law?** Yes. Vehicles placarded for hazardous loads may pass the chain-up signs and install their chains where pavement is covered by snow or ice, at a safe location outside the traveled portion of the highway.

**When can chains be removed?** Call 511 for current chain law status. The chain law will cease where bare descending pavement is encountered, and when electronic signs no longer display ‘chain law in effect.’

**Where are chain-up stations located?**

- **I-70 eastbound:** mileposts 178, 183, 184 (shoulder), 187 (shoulder), 195, 203 (scenic area), 205, 219, 228, 241, 251, 289, 343
- **I-70 westbound:** mileposts 358, 263, 260, 254 (Buffalo Overlook), 228, 223, 221, 219, 213, 197, 179
- **I-25 northbound:** milepost 157
- **I-25 southbound:** milepost 172

**What are the fines for chain law violations?** The fine for not carrying chains on I-70 between MPs 133 and 259 from Sept. 1 to May 31 is $50 plus a $17 surcharge. Statewide, the fine for not chaining up when the chain law is in effect is $500 plus a $79 surcharge. The fine for blocking a highway as a result of not chaining up is $1,000 plus a $157 surcharge.

**CDOT Mobile App**

Text “CDOT” to 25827

[www.cotrip.mobi](http://www.cotrip.mobi)

Search “CDOT Mobile” in your App Store
SEASONAL WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

During the spring, when warmer temperatures cause the road surface to break up and generally deteriorate, the highways most affected are restricted to lower axle weights and speed restrictions. Signs indicating that a road is posted for lower weights are erected at the beginning of a posted road. Signs will indicate the legal weight allowed.

For information on operating restrictions for state highways posted for spring breakup limits or to check on a route of travel for construction restrictions etc., go to 511.Idaho.gov and the trucking page.

It is important for the trucking industry to cooperate and comply with the load and speed limits. If compliance with the load and speed limits are adhered to, the need for future, more restrictive, limits may be alleviated. Excessive violations may lead to implementation of more restrictive limits.

CHAIN LAW

Idaho does have a chain law, which can be found in Idaho Code, section 49-948. It currently only applies to the following passes in Idaho, Lolo on US-12, Look Out and 4th of July on I-90.
Road Conditions

Telephone: 511

On the Internet: www.nvroads.com

NDOT Headquarters
General Information
(775) 888-7000
www.nevadadot.com

Las Vegas – District 1
(702) 385-6500

Tonopah Maintenance Station
(775) 482-2375

Reno – District 2
(775) 834-8300

Elko – District 3
(775) 777-2700

Winnemucca Maintenance Station
(775) 623-8000

Ely Maintenance Station
(775) 289-1700

NHP Headquarters
(775) 684-4867
www.dps.nv.gov/nhp

NHP Regional Offices:

Reno NHP
(775) 688-2500 (ext. 0)

Elko NHP
(775) 753-1111

Las Vegas NHP
(702) 486-4100 (ext. 0)
NRS 484.643 requires the use of chains or snow tires on motor vehicles driven on any street or highway under icy or snowy conditions when the highway is marked or posted with signs requiring the use of chains or snow tires.

NRS 484.6432 requires operators of all vehicles of more than 10,000 pounds (GVW) to install chains when chains or snow tire requirements are in effect.

Vehicles over 10,000 pounds (GVW) are permitted in chain control areas when equipped with chains or Automatic Traction Devices (MTD) on drive axles. Trailer axles must be chained as indicated.

Studded snow tires are permitted between October 1 and April 30. However, retractable studded snow tires (NRS 484.6425) may be used at any time but only with the studs retracted between May 1 – September 30.

Snow tires have special tread to enhance traction and bear a permanent sidewall label consisting of the words “mud and snow” or an abbreviation using a combination of the letters “M” and “S”. Minimum tread depth for mud and snow tires is 3/16”. Trucks with cable-type chains are legal in Nevada. However, these trucks may be restricted at times due to local conditions.

The Nevada Department of Transportation and the Nevada Highway Patrol reserve the right to prohibit any vehicle from entering a chain control area when it is determined the vehicle will experience difficulty in safely traveling the area.

**LEGEND**

- Driving axle
- Non-driving axle
- Wheel with chains or MTD
- Wheel with no chains
- Drive axle must be chained
- Chains on trailers may be staggered front and back
- May require chains on all drive wheels if conditions warrant
- Only 1 axle is necessary to be chained inside or outside

**NOTES**

- All vehicles, including four wheel drive vehicles, that are towing trailers must have chains on one drive axle.
- Trailers with brakes must have chains on the braking axle.
- Front wheel drive vehicles must have chains on front (drive) axle.
- On any semi-trailer, only one set of chains is required regardless of number of axles.
- Chains are not required on tag axle.

Acceptable on either axle of semi-trailers.
Minimum Chain Requirements

When you drive in winter conditions, you may see signs telling you to carry chains or traction tires and when you are required to use them. In some areas, lighted message signs also will advise you about chaining up. To view the signs or learn more about Oregon's chain law and the vehicles that may be exempt from it go to Oregon’s Chain Law (/Pages/chain-laws.asp).

When signs tell you that chains are required on all or certain types of vehicles, chains must be placed as generally described below. Specific information on chain requirements is listed in Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 734, Division 17. To view the administrative rule go to: http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_700/oar_734/734_017.html (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_700/oar_734/734_017.html).

In typical winter conditions, vehicles rated at 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or less and not towing or being towed are allowed to use traction tires in place of chains. For traction tire information go to Traction Tires (/Pages/traction-tires.asp).

In very bad winter road conditions all vehicles may be required to use chains regardless of the type of vehicle or type of tire being used. This is known as a conditional road closure. A conditional road closure may occur on any of Oregon's highways and are frequent in the winter on Interstate 5 through the Siskiyou Pass south of Ashland.

The following provides examples of chain placement based on vehicle and trailer configurations. It is not the intent of the following examples to portray or suggest mixing of different types or designs of tires on a single axle. For these examples, please use the following legend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legend</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Tire without chain" /></td>
<td>Tire without chain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Tire with chain" /></td>
<td>Tire with chain.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Chains may be placed on either axle" /></td>
<td>Chains may be placed on either axle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Chains may be placed on either side" /></td>
<td>Chains may be placed on either side.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: When one tire of a dual-wheel axle is required to have a chain, the chain may be placed on either the inside or outside tire.

Light Duty Vehicles

Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight (GVW) rating of 10,000 pounds or less such as a passenger car or light truck.

Light duty vehicles must use chains on one tire on each side of the primary drive axle. When towing, chains must also be on one tire on each side of one axle of a trailer that is equipped with a brake. Traction tires may be used in place of chains when the vehicle is not towing or being towed.
Medium Duty Vehicles

Vehicles with a GVW rating of more than 10,000 pounds but less than 26,001 pounds such as buses, RVs, and cargo vehicles. Single-drive axle medium duty vehicles must have chains on one tire on each side of the drive axle.

Tandem-drive axle medium duty vehicles must have chains on two tires on each side of the primary drive axle; or if both axles are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle.

Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle. OR If both axles are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle.

A medium duty vehicle with one single-wheel axle and one dual-wheel axle must have chains on one tire on each side of the dual-wheel axle.

When towing, chains must also be on one tire on each side of one axle of a trailer that is equipped with a brake.

Solo Commercial Vehicles

Vehicles with a GVW rating of 26,001 pounds or more that are not towing. Single-drive axle solo commercial vehicles must have chains on one tire on each side of the drive axle.

Tandem-drive axle solo commercial vehicles must have chains on two tires on each side of the primary drive axle; or if both axles are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle.

Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle. OR If both axles are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle.
Commercial Vehicles with Trailers

Vehicles with a GVW rating of 26,001 pounds or more that are towing one or more trailers. **Single-drive axle commercial vehicles** towing a trailer must have chains on two tires on each side of the drive axle and one tire on the front axle and one tire on one of the rear axles of the trailer.

**Single-drive axle commercial vehicles towing a semi-trailer** must have chains on two tires on each side of the drive axle and two tires, one on each side, of any axle of the semi-trailer.

Two tires, one on each side of any axle.

**Single-drive axle commercial vehicles towing both a semi-trailer and a trailer** must have chains on two tires on each side of the drive axle, two tires, one on each side, of any axle of the semi-trailer, and one tire on the front axle and one tire on one of the rear axles of the trailer.

Two tires, one on each side of any axle.

**Tandem-drive axle commercial vehicles towing a trailer** must have chains on two tires on each side of the primary drive axle; or if both axles of the vehicle are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle. Chains must also be placed on one tire of the front axle, and one tire on one of the rear axles of the trailer.

One tire, either side either axle. Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle.

OR

One tire, either side either axle. If both axles are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle.
Tandem-drive axle commercial vehicles towing a semi-trailer must have chains on two tires on each side of the primary drive axle; or if both axles of the vehicle are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle. Chains must also be placed on two tires, one on each side, of any axle on the semi-trailer.

**OR**

Tandem-drive axle commercial vehicles towing both a semi-trailer and a trailer must have chains on two tires on each side of the primary drive axle; or if both axles of the vehicle are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle. Chains must also be placed on two tires, one on each side of any axle on the semi-trailer and one tire on one of the rear axles of the trailer.

**OR**

Tandem-drive axle commercial vehicles towing a semi-trailer and a semi-trailer that are connected by kingpin-to-fifth wheel assemblies, commonly referred to as a "B-Train" or connected by kingpin-to-fifth wheel "C-dolly" assemblies, commonly referred to as a "C-Train", must have chains on two tires on each side of the primary drive axle; or if both axles of the vehicle
are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle. Chains must also be placed on two tires, one on each side, of any axle of the semi-trailer at the B-Train or C-Train connection and on two tires, one on each side, of any axle of the rear semi-trailer.

Two tires, one on each side of any axle.  Two tires, one on each side of any axle.  Two tires on each side of the primary drive axle.

OR

Two tires, one on each side of any axle.  Two tires, one on each side of any axle.  If both axles are powered by the drive line, one tire on each side of each drive axle.

For questions regarding chain-up requirements for commercial vehicles, contact your local ODOT Port of Entry (/Pages/TRentry.asp).
MINIMUM CHAIN REQUIREMENTS
for vehicles and combinations over 10,000 pounds GVWR

WAC 204-24-050

All vehicles over 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) shall carry a minimum of two (2) extra chains for use in the event that road conditions require the use of more chains or in the event that chains in use are broken or otherwise made useless.

Approved chains for vehicles over 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) shall have at least two side chains to which are attached sufficient cross chains of hardened metal so that at least one cross chain is in contact with the road surface at all times. Plastic chains shall not be allowed. The State Patrol may approve other devices as chains if the devices are equivalent to regular chains in performance (cable chains allowable).

On the following routes all vehicles and combinations of vehicles over 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) shall carry sufficient tire chains to meet the requirements of WAC 204-24-050 from November 1 to April 1 of each year or at other times when chains are required for such vehicles:

**Snoqualmie Pass**
- I-90 North Bend (MP 32) and Ellensburg (MP 101)

**Blewett Pass**
- SR-97 between MP 145 and Milepost 185

**Stevens Pass**
- SR-2 Dryden (MP 108) to Index (MP 36)

**White Pass**
- SR-12 Packwood (MP 135) to Naches (MP 187)

**Satus Pass**
- SR-97 Columbia River (MP 00) to Toppenish (MP 59)

**Chinook Pass**
- SR-410 Enumclaw (MP 25) to SR-12 (MP 342)

**Sherman Pass**
- SR-20 Tonasket (MP 262) to Kettle Falls (MP 342)

**Omak to Nespelem**
- SR-155 Omak (MP 79) to Nespelem (MP 45)

**Cle Elum to Teanaway**
- SR-970 Cle Elum (MP 0) to Teanaway (MP 10)

**Gibbons Creek to Intersection of Cliffs Rd.**
- SR-14 Gibbons Creek (MP 18) to Intersection of Cliffs Rd. (MP 108)

**Newhalem to Winthrop**
- SR-20 Newhalem (MP 120) to Winthrop (MP 192)

**Mt. Baker Highway**
- SR-542 (MP22) to (MP 57)

**Ellensburg to Selah**
- I-82 from Ellensburg (MP 3) to Selah (MP 26)

Vehicles making local deliveries as indicated on bills of lading and not crossing the mountain pass are exempt from this requirement if operating outside of chain required area.

The Washington State Department of Transportation or Washington State Patrol may prohibit any vehicle from entering a chain/approved traction tire control area when it is determined that the vehicle will experience difficulty in safely traveling the area.

OVERSIZE LOAD MOVEMENTS

Movement by permit on mountain passes is prohibited where any of the following signs are displayed:

- **Traction Advisory - Oversize Vehicles Prohibited**
- **Vehicles Over 10,000 GVWR - Chains Required**
- **All Vehicles - Chains Required**
  - Except All-Wheel Drive

3000-150-391 (R 7/05)
When signs marked “Vehicles over 10,000 GVWR” or “All vehicles - chains required (except all-wheel drive)” are posted, all vehicles over 10,000 LBS. GVWR must have tire chains mounted on the tires as required.

**TWO TO FOUR AXLES**

![Diagram of two to four axles](image)

- One tire on each side of the drive axle.
- Either drive axle, one tire on each side, same axle.
- One tire on each side of the drive axle and one tire on either side of the trailer. This includes auto transporters with single drive axles.
- Either drive axle, one tire on each side of the same axle and one tire on either side of the trailer.

**FIVE AXLES**

![Diagram of five axles](image)

- All tires on one drive axle and one tire on either side of last trailer axle.
- All tires on the drive axle and one tire on either side of the last axle of the last trailer.
- All tires on one drive axle or one tire on each side of both drive axles. One tire on either side of either trailer axle. This includes Automobile Transporters.
When signs marked “vehicles over 10,000 GVWR” or “all vehicles - chains required (except all-wheel drive)” are posted, all vehicles over 10,000 lbs. GVWR must have tire chains mounted on the tires as required.

**SIX OR MORE AXLES**

All tires on the drive axle and one tire on either side of the last axle of the last trailer.

All tires on one drive axle and one tire on either side of the last two axles.

All tires on one drive axle and one tire on either side of the last axle of the last trailer.

Only on six or more axle combinations when posted “ALL VEHICLES CHAINS REQUIRED” one additional tire on each side of the drive axle shall be chained.

**Winter Road Information**

Department of Transportation: [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov) for traffic cameras and pass report information.

Or in state dial 511 or from out of state 1-800-695-7623.

Wyoming’s CHAIN LAW

Wyoming’s chain law includes two levels of restrictions that can be implemented on specific highway sections when conditions warrant.

**Level 1**
When conditions are hazardous, travel can be restricted to:
- Vehicles equipped with tire chains; or
- Vehicles with adequate snow tires; or
- All-wheel-drive vehicles.

**Level 2**
When conditions are extremely hazardous, travel can be restricted to:
- Vehicles equipped with tire chains; or
- All-wheel-drive vehicles equipped with adequate mud and snow or all-weather-rated tires.

- Under Level 2, commercial vehicles must have chains on at least two of the drive wheels at opposite ends of the same drive axle.
- Do not stop in the driving lane to install or remove chains!
- Penalties for violations:
  - $250 for violating the travel restriction; or
  - $750 for a violation that results in a highway closure.

To read the statute, go to: www.dot.state.wy.us/wydot/site/wydot/lang/en_US/full_statute

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**When a level 2 travel restriction is in effect ...**

Commercial vehicles must install tire chains on at least two of the drive wheels at opposite ends of the same drive axle.

Tire chains must be installed on this wheel.

Drawing by Ed Bingel