

## What Do Traction Advisories Mean?

### Traction Tires Advised:

Oversize loads prohibited from roadways. Commercial Vehicle Services and load information: [wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle](http://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 and SUVs.

TRACTION  
TIRES  
REQUIRED

### Tire Chains Required:

All vehicles must have approved tire chains, except four- and all-wheel-drive vehicles.\*\*

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.

16-08-0301

## 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](http://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

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: Subscribe, Follow, Listen



Download the WSDOT app or subscribe to email or text alerts: [wsdot.wa.gov/inform](http://wsdot.wa.gov/inform)

- Follow WSDOT social media accounts: [wsdot.wa.gov/inform](http://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.wa.gov/winter](http://wsdot.wa.gov/winter)
- WSDOT Newsroom: [wsdot.wa.gov/news](http://wsdot.wa.gov/news)
- Mountain Pass Reports:
  - » Online: [wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes](http://wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes)
  - » Twitter: [@wsdot\\_passes](https://twitter.com/wsdot_passes)
- Cameras & Traffic Alerts: [wsdot.wa.gov/traffic](http://wsdot.wa.gov/traffic)
- Weather: [wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/weather](http://wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/weather)

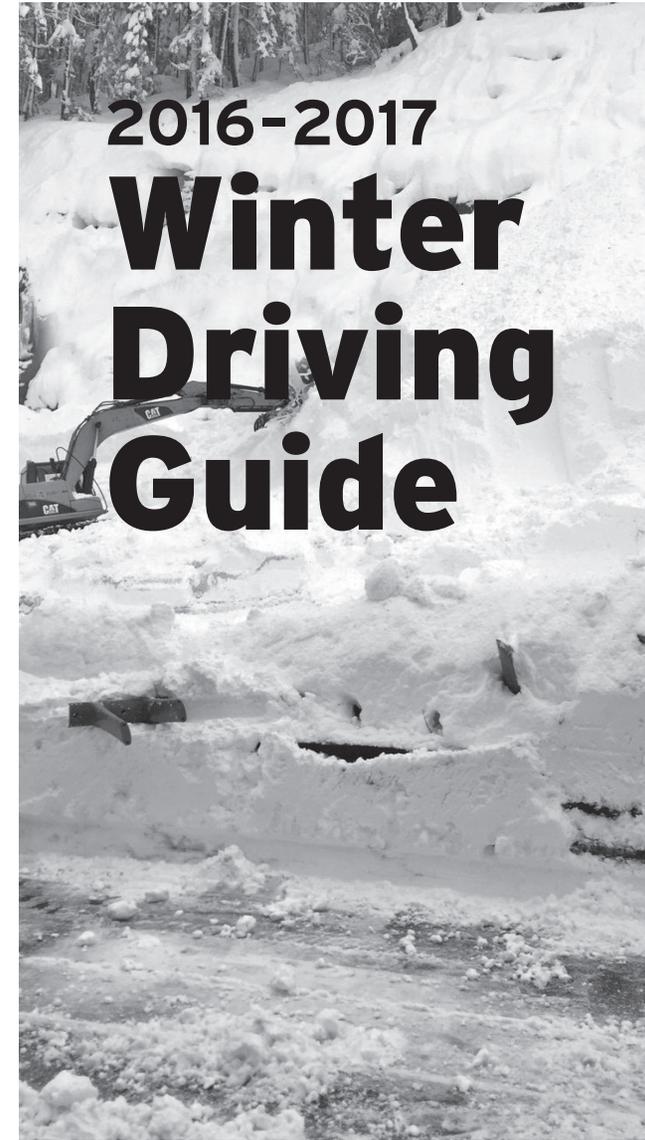


**ADA information:** This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the WSDOT Diversity/ADA Affairs team at [wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov) or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.



2016-2017

# 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. WSDOT may extend the deadline if forecasts indicate severe winter weather conditions are likely across much of the state.

**New in 2016:** A \$5 per tire fee is added to every studded tire sale. Money collected goes to the state motor vehicle fund. (RCW 46.37.427)

## 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.

