



# State Chain Laws

November 2016

Alabama.....Tire chains, or metal studded or spike tires of reasonable proportions may be used when required for safety because of snow or other slippery conditions.

Alaska .....It is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle with studded tires or tires with chains attached on a paved highway or road from May 1 through September 15, inclusive, north of 60 North Latitude and from April 15 through September 30, inclusive, south of 60 North Latitude,

chains across the tread. Commercial vehicles with four or more drive wheels must chain four wheels. Dual tire chains are acceptable. Approved alternative traction devices include wheel sanders and the AutoSock. Also tire cables are not permitted by law as an alternative traction device but there are two exceptions that can be found at [www.cdotrip.org](http://www.cdotrip.org) Chain Law Level 1; All single drive axle combination commercial vehicles must chain all four driver wheels; cables are not permitted. A.T.S. All other commercial vehicles must have snow tires or chains. Level 1 may be implemented any time there is a snow covering any part of the traveled portion of pavement on an ascending grade. Chain Law Level 2; All commercial vehicles must chain up. Single drive axle and tandem drive axle combination commercial vehicles must chain four drive wheels. Auto transports must comply to the extent possible without causing damage to the hydraulic lines. Busses must chain two drive wheels to comply. Level 2 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. Commercial vehicles traveling on I-70 in either direction between milepost 133 (Doty) and 259 (Morrison) from Sept. 1 from May 31 must carry sufficient chains at all times to be in compliance with the Colorado chain law. For more information, go to CDOT's Web site at <http://www.coloradodot.info/library/Brochures/ChainTips.pdf>

- Connecticut ..... Studded tires and any other non-skid devices are prohibited from November 15 - April 30.
- Delaware..... Studded tires are permitted from October 15- April 15 and tire chains of reasonable proportions may be used upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to slide or skid.
- Georgia ..... Safety spike metal studs may be used when conditions demand them. A set of chains is also permissible for all vehicles likely to encounter conditions requiring chains.
- Idaho..... Studded snow tires are permissible from October 1 to April 30. There are no specific restrictions on the use of tire chains in Idaho. While it may be legal to use the tires, officials advise against it unless conditions wa

conditions tending to cause a vehicle to slide or skid.

- Maine.....Studded tires are permitted from October 1 to April 30. Permissible when icy road conditions exist. Permits can be issued to use studded tires during prohibited months.
- Maryland.....In case of declared snow emergency, chains will be required on certain designated highways. Studded snow tires are not allowed on vehicles having a registered gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds.
- Massachusetts .....Studded tires are permissible in Massachusetts between November 1 and May 1.
- Michigan.....Permissible upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.
- Minnesota .....Permitted when road conditions (ice/snow) require tire chains. Studded pneumatic tires are not allowed on Minnesota registered vehicles.
- Mississippi .....Permissible upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.
- Montana .....Chains are permissible from October 1 until May 31, but not mandatory unless the department makes that determination and a notice is posted. They are then required on one set of drive axles. It is also permissible to use tire chains of reasonable proportions or pneumatic tires (means a tire in which compressed air or nitrogen is designed to support the load.), studded tires, that may not protrude more than one-sixteenth of an inch beyond the tire tread or that are clearly marked by the manufacturer on the sidewall all season mud and snow, upon a vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.
- Nebraska .....Permissible upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other condition tending to cause a vehicle to slide or skid. Pneumatic tires with metal or metal type studs not exceeding five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter inclusive of the stud-casing with an average protrusion beyond the tread surface of not more than seven sixty-fourths of an inch are allowed to be used between November 1 and April 1.
- Nevada .....Requires operation 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. Studded snow tires are permitted between October 1 and April 30. For more information, go to NDOT's Web site at <http://www.nevadadot.com/business/trucker/>
- New Jersey.....May be fitted with tire chains of reasonable proportions when roads, streets, and highways are slippery, because of rain snow, ice, manner of construction or other reason; provided, however, that no tire chains shall be used at any time on improved highways when highway conditions do not make such use necessary for the safety of life or property. No person shall use any tire chains so constructed as to be likely to be thrown so as to endanger any person or property.
- New Mexico.....Permissible upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.
- New York.....Tire chains are required when a snow emergency has been declared.

- North Carolina .....Permissible upon any vehicle ~~when~~ required for safety because of snow, ice or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to slide or skid.
- North Dakota .....Tire chains may be used when ~~required~~ pneumatic tires with metal studs projecting to 1/16 inch above the tread surface ~~may be~~ used between October 15 and April 15.
- Ohio.....No person shall operate any motor ~~vehicle~~ other than a public safety vehicle or school bus, that is equipped with studs ~~on~~ on any street or highway in this state, except during the period extending ~~from~~ the first day of November of each year through the fifteenth day of April of the succeeding year
- Oklahoma..... Permissible upon any vehicle when ~~required~~ for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.
- Oregon .....Tire chains are required when conditions demand because of snow, ice or other inclement weather and SNOW ZONE signs are posted. When signs are posted, you must use chains on any single drive axle vehicle rated over 1000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) and you must use chains if your vehicle is towing (such as a pickup towing a boat). Chains must also be used on the trailer or vehicle ~~being~~ towed. Under this condition, chains are not required on tandem drive axle vehicles. ~~For~~ information from within Oregon, call 511 or 1-800-977-ODOT (6368). From outside Oregon, dial 503-588-2941. Drivers who disobey the signs requiring chains or traction ~~devices~~ are subject to a traffic infraction, \$190 for failure to obey snow zone signs and \$504 for failure of a commercial vehicle to use chains. For more information, go to ODOT's Web site ~~at~~ <http://www.tripcheck.com/pages/http://www.tripcheck.com/Pages/RCMap.aspx?mainNav=RoadConditions&staticNav=MinChainReqs> Also for minimum chain requirements
- Pennsylvania .....Tires in which ice grips or tire studs ~~of~~ resisting material ~~have~~ been installed which provide resiliency upon contact with the road and which have projections not exceeding two thirty-seconds of an inch beyond the tread ~~of~~ the traction surface of the tire shall be permitted between November 1 and April 15. ~~The~~ Governor may by executive order extend the time tires with ice grips or tire studs ~~may~~ be used when highway conditions are such that such tires would be a safety factor ~~in~~ traveling Commonwealth highways. The use of tires with ice grips or tire studs contrary ~~to~~ the provisions of this subsection shall be unlawful. Tire chains may be temporarily used on vehicles during periods of snow and ice emergency if they are in conformance ~~with~~ regulations promulgated by the department.
- Rhode Island .....Tire chains ~~in~~ reasonable proportions are permitted ~~on~~ a vehicle when required for safety because of ice, snow, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.
- South Carolina .....Permissible upon ~~any~~ vehicle when require for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid. state, except during the period extending fro

area in contact with the roadway. The studs allowed by this subsection shall not be used at any time on a vehicle with a maximum gross weight of more than nine thousand pounds (9,000 lbs.) , unless such a vehicle is a school bus or an emergency vehicle. It is

all-weather rating from the manufacturer having a tread of sufficient abrasive or skid-resistant design or composition and depth to provide adequate traction under existing driving conditions. The prohibition or restriction of use shall be effective when signs, including temporary or electronic signs, giving notice thereof are erected upon that portion of the highway, and it shall be unlawful to proceed in violation of the notice. The operator of a commercial vehicle shall affix tire chains to at least two of the drive wheels of the vehicle at opposite ends of the same drive axle when the vehicle is required to utilize tire chains. Any person who operates a motor vehicle in violation of these restrictions is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be subject to a penalty of not more than \$250.00. Any person who operates a motor vehicle, where the results of the violation is an incident that causes the closure of all lanes or both directions of travel of that highway, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be subject to a penalty of not more than \$750.00.

No chain laws .....D.C., Florida, Hawaii, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

#### Canadian Chain Laws

Alberta .....Allowed when conditions warrant.

British Columbia.....Vehicles in the mountains must be equipped with snow tires or chains from Oct. 1 to Apr. 30.

Manitoba.....Permissible upon a motor vehicle where required for safety.

New Brunswick .....May also be carried in the vehicle for use in ice and snow conditions.

Newfoundland.....Required on drive wheels when there is snow or ice on the surface of the highway.

Nova Scotia.....Permissible upon a vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to slide or skid.

Prince Edward Island....Permissible to use tire chains.

Quebec .....Snow tires are mandatory from Dec. 15 to March 15.

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