

Tire Chain Laws By State:

With winter rolling in, it's time to start thinking about chain laws and how to use tire chains.

Failing to use chains when you're required to do so — or using them when you shouldn't — can result in hefty fines.

How to Put on Tire Chains

Prepare in case you are required to have them. Pre-planning can assist greatly, it's always good practice to know how to use them. If you encounter an emergency or end up in an area that requires them, you'll know how to use them.

Putting on tire chains is time-consuming, especially if you've never done it. If you've chained before, it might take you 30 minutes to chain four tires. If you've never done it before, it could take 90 minutes.

Get to the safest place you can park to chain up. Then grab your chains. How many chains you put on will depend upon state regulations, but they don't need to go on every tire.

Untangle the chains and ensure they're clean of snow. Then you can begin to drape the chains over the select tires with the hooks facing out. Connect the chains. Then, you'll need to drive forward and/or backward to get the chain on the rest of the tire.

Tire chain laws are mandated on the state level. Tire chain laws dictate when you should, shouldn't and must use tire chains. Many states allow chains when needed at the driver's discretion, but some states restrict them depending on the time of year and type of chain.

Using the incorrect type of chain or using chains that aren't in accordance with these laws can subject you to fines. Chains can not only damage your truck and trailer; they can also damage the roads. This is why states have laws regarding their usage.

Use the chart below for state-by-state guidance on when you're required to carry chains in your truck, when you need to use them and when you shouldn't use them. Failing to follow these laws can result in fines.

State	Chain Law Summary
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<u>Alabama</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Alaska</u>	Tire chain laws vary by location and time of year, check local laws. Special permits may be obtained to use chains in prohibited zones.
<u>Arizona</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Arkansas</u>	Allowed during certain times of year when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>California</u>	Tire chain controls may be established in mountain areas. Follow posted signs along the highway. At least eight chains are needed to comply with regulations.
<u>Colorado</u>	Drivers must carry tire chains in certain areas September 1 to May 31. To avoid fines, check local laws and use chains when required.
<u>Connecticut</u>	Chains and studded tires may be used November 15 to April 30.
<u>Delaware</u>	Chains are allowed when needed from October 15 to April 15.
<u>Florida</u>	No tire chain laws.
<u>Georgia</u>	Tire chains required when posted on signage.
<u>Hawaii</u>	No tire chain laws.
<u>Idaho</u>	Studded tires are allowed October 1 to April 30. Chains are allowed as needed and required on some mountain passes.
<u>Illinois</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Indiana</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Iowa</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Kansas</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Kentucky</u>	May not be used unless the road is ice-covered or the vehicle has an ice shoe at least 6 inches wide. Limit on diameter and spacing.
<u>Louisiana</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Maine</u>	Allowed when required during certain times of year due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions. Studs, wires and spikes are prohibited otherwise from May 1 to October 1.

<u>Maryland</u>	Required when a snow emergency has been declared, but not allowed on vehicles weighing more than 10,000 lbs.
<u>Massachusetts</u>	Permitted when necessary from November 1 to May 1.
<u>Michigan</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Minnesota</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Mississippi</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Missouri</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions. Not permitted April 1 to November 1.
<u>Montana</u>	Chains may be required when a chain-up sign is posted. Vehicles are required to carry tire chains October 1 to April 1 when indicated.
<u>Nebraska</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Nevada</u>	Required on all vehicles over 10,000 pounds when posted.
<u>New Hampshire</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>New Jersey</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>New Mexico</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>New York</u>	Allowed when required October 16 to April 30.
<u>North Carolina</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>North Dakota</u>	Studded tires allowed between October 15 and April 15. Otherwise, tire chains are allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Ohio</u>	Studded tires allowed between November 1 and April 15. Tire chains are not allowed.
<u>Oklahoma</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Oregon</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions. Follow posted signs for usage requirements.
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.

<u>Rhode Island</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>South Carolina</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>South Dakota</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Tennessee</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Texas</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Utah</u>	Allowed during October 1 and April 30, when posted or when road conditions warrant it.
<u>Vermont</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions. Required in certain areas when posted.
<u>Virginia</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions.
<u>Washington</u>	Required on certain routes from November 1 to April 1. Check local laws and use chains when required.
<u>West Virginia</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions. Chains mustn't come in direct contact with the road surface.
<u>Wisconsin</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions. Chains mustn't come in direct contact with the road surface.
<u>Wyoming</u>	Allowed when required due to snow, rain or other poor weather conditions. Chains may be required in extreme weather conditions.