



Background

Traction tire options

[Oregon state law](#) allows motorists to use studded tires from Nov. 1 through March 31. Because studded tires damage Oregon highways, ODOT encourages drivers to consider using [chains or non-studded traction tires](#).



Tires that meet Rubber Manufacturers Association standards for use in severe snow conditions qualify as traction tires in Oregon. They carry a special symbol on the tire sidewall: a three-peaked mountain and snowflake.

	3/31	4/1	4/2	4/3	4/4	4/5	4/17
2003	3/31						
2004	3/31						
2005	3/31						
2006	3/31						
2007	3/31						
2008						4/5	
2009	3/31						
2010							4/17
2011					4/4		

Recent year season closing dates

Studded tire facts

- You can use studded tires in Oregon from Nov. 1 through March 31. Driving with studded tires before Nov. 1 or after March 31 is a Class C violation and carries a \$190 fine.
- Research shows that studded tires are more effective than all-weather tires on icy roads, but are **less effective in most other conditions** because they may reduce traction between the road and the tire.
- When it rains, water collects in the pavement ruts caused by studded tires and creates dangerous driving conditions. In cold weather, that water can freeze and cause slippery roads.
- An ODOT study[†] estimates studded tires cause between \$40 and \$50 million in damage every year; ODOT, cities and counties spend about \$11 million a year fixing that damage.

Alternatives to studded tires

Chains and chain-like devices

- Chains are more effective than studded tires and are becoming easier to use.
- Link chains may not be recommended for use on some vehicles; check your owner's manual.

Traction tires

- Traction tires, other than studded tires, provide increased traction in winter conditions.
- They work about as well as studded tires on ice, but work better than studded tires or regular tires in most other winter conditions.
- These other traction tires cause no more damage to road surfaces than regular tires.

[†] "Studded tires in Oregon: Analysis of pavement wear and cost of mitigation," ODOT, December 2000, www.oregon.gov/ODOT/CS/FS/docs/other/STUDDDED_TIRES.pdf