



Winter tires are required in BC on many rural highways and high mountain passes in the Interior, North and Vancouver Island.

BC is one of only three provinces in Canada that define a winter tire and specify where their use is required.

Definition of a Winter Tire

BC's *Motor Vehicle Act* creates the authority to designate roads where winter tires are required.

- *Motor Vehicle Act* Section 208 gives the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure authority to post signs that specify where winter tires are required, and the vehicle types on which they are required.



- The signs define that both severe winter condition (mountain snowflake) and all-season mud and snow (M+S) tires are acceptable winter tires for cars and light trucks and that large trucks must carry chains.

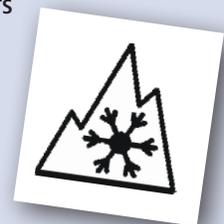
To be considered a winter tire, a mountain snowflake or an M+S tire must also have at least 3.5 mm of tread depth across the whole tire.

For a list of highways that winter tires are required on, please go to www.gov.bc.ca/wintertires

Selecting the right tire

Both the mountain snowflake and M+S tires meet the minimum requirement for winter tires in BC. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the RCMP recommend that regular travellers on BC's highways equip their cars and light trucks with the mountain snowflake tire, which is the best tire available for winter conditions.

M+S tires are a viable option for motorists who live in areas without frequent winter weather and who plan their trips to coincide with periods of better weather. All drivers should be prepared to drive with added care and caution when winter conditions are encountered.



Motorcycles

Motorcycles are not required to be equipped with winter tires in BC. The Ministry does, however, recommend motorcyclists not travel provincial highways when winter conditions are present or forecast.