



**Overseas  
winter equipment**

# Overseas winter equipment

In some countries it is a legal requirement to use winter equipment such as snow chains or winter tyres.

## Tips

In addition to the information provided, we recommend that you:

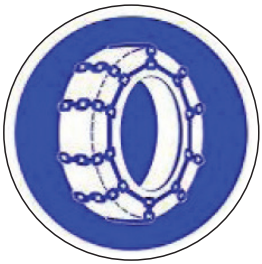
- Take a snow shovel
- Add antifreeze to the windscreen fluid

## Winter equipment requirements by country

Austria	<p>Between 1 November and 15 April winter tyres are mandatory when driving in winter conditions (snow, slush or ice). Winter tyres must have a minimum tread of 4mm.</p> <p>Snow chains can be used on summer tyres as an alternative to winter tyres but only if the roads are completely covered with snow and the snow chains will not cause damage to the road surface.</p>
Belgium	No requirements.
Croatia	If there is black ice or more than 5cm of snow, snow chains must be used motorists must also carry a snow shovel. (It is recommended to carry snow chains and a shovel from November to April).
Czech Republic	<p>Winter tyres are compulsory from 1 November to 31 March when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• there is compacted snow or ice on the roads.</li><li>• the temperature is lower than 4°C and there is a possibility of snow or ice.</li><li>• a blue sign showing a white car with a white snow flake underneath is present.</li></ul> <p>Vehicles up to 3.5t must have winter tyres on all wheels (minimum depth tread 4mm) and vehicles over 3.5t must have winter tyres on the driving wheels (minimum depth tread 6mm).</p>
Denmark	It is recommended to use winter tyres or carry snow chains but there is not legal requirement to do so.
France	<p>It is not a legal requirement to carry snow chains or have winter tyres fitted in France, however if the international road signage for snow chains is displayed it is then a legal requirement to use them.</p> <p>There is no legal requirement to use spiked tyres (and only vehicles under 3.5t are allowed to use them between 11 November and the last Sunday in March).</p>
Germany	<p>In snowy or icy conditions cars and motor caravans must be equipped with winter tyres. The winter tyres must have the M + S mark on them with a depth tread of at least 4mm.</p> <p>Snow chains are no longer accepted. Failure to comply with this law can result in fines from €40-€80.</p>
Hungary	It is recommended to use winter tyres or carry snow chains during the winter months. In very extreme weather conditions this recommendation can be changed to compulsory.
Ireland	No requirements.
Italy	In the area of Val d'Aosta, vehicles must be equipped with winter tyres or snow chains must be carried in vehicles throughout the winter from 15 October until 15 April. Outside of the Val d'Aosta area, either winter tyres or snow chains must be used when the international sign is used.
Luxembourg	As of 1 October 2012, all vehicles must be fitted with winter tyres (marked M + S) in wintry conditions such as frost, packed snow and ice.
Netherlands	No requirements.



Norway	Vehicles over 3.5t and car/caravan combinations over 3.5t must fit winter tyres (minimum depth tread 5mm) and carry snow chains (From 15 November to 31 March). Vehicles under 3.5t must use snow chains when there is snow or ice on the roads. (Car/caravan combinations only need snow chains/winter tyres on the car – not the caravan).
Portugal	No requirements but officials may close roads if the conditions are too dangerous.
Slovenia	From the 15 November to 15 March (or during winter conditions such as snow or black ice outside of these dates) cars and motor caravans must be equipped with winter tyres (minimum depth tread 4mm) or carry snow chains in the boot.
Spain	There is no specific law in Spain and it is not a legal requirement to carry snow chains. However if the roads are covered in snow and ice, the police can stop motorists and refuse to let them continue their journey if they are not carrying snow chains or equipped to deal with the weather conditions.
Sweden	Between October and March, winter tyres must be fitted to vehicles and trailers if there is snow or ice on the roads or the temperature drops to around or below 0°C. Tyres must have a minimum depth tread of 3mm.
Switzerland	It is not a legal requirement to have winter tyres, however vehicles that are not quipped to deal with snow or impede traffic can face a fine. Snow chains are a legal requirement when the international road sign is used.



This picture is of the international road sign which is used to advise motorists that snow chains or winter tyres need to be used.

These signs are normally on the roadside and covered up in good weather. When weather conditions deteriorate and there is snow or ice on the roads, the signs are un-covered.