

Winter equipment for cars in Europe - 2014/15

Country	Winter period (during which winter equipment is required)	Spiked/studded tyres and snow chains			Winter / M+S tyres		Anti-freeze in windscreen fluid	Shovel	Comments
		Spiked/studded tyres	Snow chains	Applicable to foreign cars?	Winter / M+S tyres	Applicable to foreign cars?			
Andorra	1 November - 15 May	Allowed if snow or ice on roads — see comments.	Allowed if snow or ice on roads. Must be carried on board unless the vehicle is already equipped with winter or M+S tyres.	Yes.	Allowed during the winter period — see comments.	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Between 1 November and 15 May, all vehicles must carry a set of snow chains (or other similar equipment, like "spray-on" snow chains, snow "socks", spiders, etc.), ready to be used in case there is snow or ice on the roads, except if they are already equipped with winter / M+S tyres on all wheels.
Austria	1 November - 15 April according to weather conditions, or if signposted	Allowed for vehicles up to 3.5 t, but must be fitted on all wheels. From 1 Oct. to 31 May. Max speed: 100 km/h on motorways 80 km/h on other roads	Max speed (recommended): 50 km/h	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels (min. tread depth 4 mm). See comments.	Yes.	Recommended.	Not compulsory.	Ice scraper recommended. It is permitted (although not recommended) to use snowchains on at least two driving wheels instead of winter tyres, but only if the road is fully covered by snow or ice.
Belarus	Mid-November to mid-March, depending on weather	Allowed during the winter period	Allowed during the winter period	Yes.	Compulsory during the winter period	Yes.	Recommended.	Recommended.	Vehicles with spiked tyres must have a special sticker at the rear.
Belgium	Wintry conditions expected between October and April	Allowed for vehicles up to 3.5 t. 1st November to 31st March only . If used, must be fitted on all wheels. Maximum speed: 90 km/h on motorways, 60 km/h on other roads, 50 km/h in built-up areas.	Allowed on snow or ice only	Yes.	Allowed - see comments (min. tread depth 1.6 mm)	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	<u>Spiked / studded tyres</u> : Vehicles with spiked / studded tyres must have a special sticker at the rear. <u>Winter tyres</u> : Allowed on foreign vehicles according to legislation in country of origin. Vehicles with winter tyres with a lower speed limit than the one specified by the car manufacturer must also have a special sticker at the rear. These tyres with a lower speed limit can only be used between 1 October and 30 April.
Bosnia-Herzegovina	15 November - 15 April	Prohibited	Allowed	Yes.	Compulsory on driving wheels (min. tread depth 4 mm)	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory for private cars.	Shovel compulsory for lorries.
Bulgaria	According to weather conditions (snow or ice on the road)	Prohibited	Allowed on snow or ice. Maximum speed: 50 km/h.	Yes.	Compulsory. Must be fitted on all wheels (min. tread depth 1.6 mm).	No.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Snow chains may be compulsory in extreme weather conditions if indicated by traffic sign.
Croatia	15 November - 15 April	Prohibited	Allowed	Yes.	Allowed (min. tread depth 4 mm)	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	
Cyprus	According to weather conditions	Allowed on mountain roads in wintry conditions	Allowed on mountain roads in wintry conditions						
Czech Rep.	1st November - 31st March	Prohibited	Allowed on snow or ice	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels on roads where sign C15a is placed and roads with snow and ice, even outside the winter period (min. tread depth 4 mm)				Winter equipment compulsory where road signs indicate. This means that vehicles up to 3.5 t must have winter tyres on all wheels
Denmark	According to weather conditions	Allowed from 1st November to 15th April. Must be fitted on all wheels.	Allowed (see notes)	Yes.	Not compulsory, but if used, must be fitted on all wheels (min. tread depth 1.6 mm).	No.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Snow chains are allowed as long as they don't damage the road.
Estonia	1st December - 1st March +according to weather conditions	Allowed 1st October - 1st May			Compulsory (min. tread depth 3 mm)				
Finland	1st December - 28th February	Allowed 1st November - Easter Monday. Must be fitted on all wheels.	Allowed	Yes.	Compulsory 1st Dec. - 28th Feb. (min. tread depth 3 mm)	Yes.			
France	According to weather conditions	Allowed only from the last Saturday before 11 November to the last Sunday of March (unless the authorities decide otherwise). For vehicles up to 3.5 t. Maximum speed: 90 km/h.	*Allowed on snow *Compulsory if indicated by traffic sign (B26) *Maximum speed recommended: 50 km/h.	Yes.	Not compulsory; recommended if there is snow or ice on the road or, if the temperature is less than 7°C (min. tread depth 1.6 mm)		Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Snow chains may be compulsory in extreme weather conditions if indicated by traffic sign.
Germany	According to weather conditions (black ice, packed snow, snow slush, slippery road due to icy conditions and white frost)	Prohibited	Allowed. Maximum speed: 50 km/h.	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels if winter conditions apply (min. tread depth 1.6 mm recommended 4 mm)	Yes.	Not compulsory, but recommended.	Not compulsory.	Snow chains may be compulsory in extreme weather conditions if indicated by traffic sign.
Greece	November - March	Prohibited	Allowed. Maximum speed: 50 km/h.		Not compulsory.		Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	
Hungary	According to weather conditions	Prohibited	Allowed on snow or ice Max. speed: 50 km/h	Yes.	Not compulsory but recommended.	Yes.	Not compulsory, but very recommended.	Not compulsory for private cars, but recommended.	
Iceland	1 November - 15 April (dates can vary)	Allowed. Maximum speed: 90 km/h.	Allowed.	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels (min. tread depth 3 mm).	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	
Ireland	No specific dates as severe winter weather is rare in Ireland	Prohibited	Prohibited		Not compulsory, but if used, must be fitted on all wheels (min. tread depth 1.6 mm).		Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Cars may not have tyres that could damage the road surface, therefore snow chains are prohibited.
Italy	Val d'Aosta: 15th October - 15th April Other regions: as indicated by road signs from 15 Nov. to 15 April	Allowed 15 November - 15 March. Maximum speed: 120 km/h on motorways 90 km/h on other roads	Required in some regions if no M+S tyres fitted Max speed: 50 km/h	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels in wintry conditions (min. tread depth 1.6 mm - see comments)	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	In Val d'Aosta, between 15 October 15 April, vehicles must always carry a set of snow chains, unless they are already equipped with winter tyres. In the rest of the country, this is only applicable between 15 November and 15 April, and only if indicated by traffic sign.

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Latvia	1st December - 1st March	Allowed October - April	Allowed	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels 1st Dec. - 1st March for vehicles up to 3.5 t and their trailers	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	
Lithuania	1st November - 10 April	Allowed during the winter period	Prohibited	Yes.	Compulsory during the winter period	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Vehicles with spiked tyres must have a special sticker at the rear. This is recommended for foreign-registered vehicles.
Luxembourg	According to weather conditions (black ice, packed snow, snow slush, slippery road due to icy conditions and white frost)	Allowed 1st December - 31st March Maximum speed: 90 km/h on motorways, 60 km/h on other roads.	Allowed on snow or ice		Compulsory on all wheels if winter conditions apply	Yes.			
Macedonia	15th November - 15th March	Prohibited	Allowed. Maximum speed: 50 km/h.	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels (min. tread depth 4 mm & 6 mm for 4x4 - see comments)	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory for cars. Compulsory for vehicles over 3.5 t.	Winter equipment required outside built-up areas. Vehicles carrying snow chains may be fitted with summer tyres with a minimum tread depth of 4 mm.
Malta	Not applicable								
Moldova	1st December - 1st March	Allowed	Allowed (see comments)	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels during the winter period	Yes.	Recommended.	Recommended.	Vehicles over 3.5 t must also carry a set of snow chains.
Montenegro	According to weather conditions (snow or ice on the road)	Prohibited	Allowed	Yes.	Compulsory on driving wheels if winter conditions apply.	Yes.	Recommended.	Compulsory for goods transport vehicles.	
Netherlands		Prohibited	Prohibited	Yes.	Recommended (min. tread depth 4 mm)		Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	
Norway	From 15 October (North) or 1 November (South) until the first Sunday after Easter	Allowed during the winter period (must be fitted on all wheels).	Allowed	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels (min. tread depth 3 mm) Winter tyres are not compulsory but, when used, they must be fitted on all wheels (min. tread depth 3 mm). Vehicles with summer tyres must use snow chains if there is snow or ice on the road.		Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Driving conditions can be very difficult in winter, especially in the mountains. Drivers should always check the weather forecast before starting a journey.
Poland	According to weather conditions	Prohibited	Allowed on snow or ice	Yes.	Recommended		Recommended.	Recommended.	
Portugal	According to weather conditions	Prohibited	Allowed						
Romania	According to weather conditions	Prohibited	Allowed Recommended in mountains	Yes.					
Russia	November to March	Allowed	Allowed		Not compulsory		Compulsory.	Not compulsory.	
Serbia	1st November - 1st April	Prohibited	Must be carried in vehicle during the winter period (see comments).	Yes.	Cars & vans up to 3.5 t: compulsory on all wheels (min. tread depth 4 mm), only if there is snow and ice on the road	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Compulsory for coaches and lorries only.	Snow chains may be compulsory if indicated by traffic signs or police officers. They must be transported in the car from 1 Nov. to 1 April.
Slovakia	November to March	Prohibited	Allowed on snow or ice - on driving wheels	Yes.	Private vehicle up to 3.5 t: M+S tyres compulsory on snow or ice (min. tread depth 3 mm) - on all wheels	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Driver obliged to clear vehicle of snow and ice before setting off, in order to avoid endangering other vehicles following behind.
Slovenia	15th November - 15th March	Prohibited	Allowed (max. speed limit 50 km/h)	Yes.	Not compulsory, but see comments (min. tread depth 3 mm)		Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Mandatory winter equipment in Slovenia (for both Slovenian and foreign cars): - winter tyres (M+S) on all four wheels OR - summer tyres on all four wheels + snow chains in the boot In both cases, the minimum tread depth is 3 mm.
Spain	Usually November to March	Prohibited	Allowed (max. speed limit 50 km/h)	Yes.	Not compulsory		Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Snow chains may be compulsory if indicated by traffic signs.
Sweden	Winter conditions expected from October to March	Allowed 1st October - 15 April	Allowed on snow or ice	Yes.	All vehicles: M+S tyres are compulsory from 1 Dec to 31 March if winter conditions apply (min. tread depth 3 mm)	Yes.	Compulsory.	Compulsory.	Recommended: tow rope, jump leads, reflective jacket
Switzerland		Allowed 1 November - 30 April (veh. reg. in CH: on all wheels; other veh. according to nat. legislation) Maximum speed: 80 km/h	Allowed		Not compulsory				Vehicles with studded tyres must have a special sticker at the rear.
Turkey	December - March and according to weather conditions	Allowed	Allowed	Yes.	Not compulsory	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	
Ukraine	November - March	Allowed	Allowed	Yes.	Compulsory on all wheels (min. tread depth 6 mm)	Yes.	Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	
UK	No specified areas or dates	Allowed	Allowed on snow or ice		Not compulsory		Not compulsory.	Not compulsory.	Winters in the UK are not usually severe so winter equipment is not normally used.