

Winter Tires

THE EVOLUTION OF THE TIRE

- Tires have evolved over the years. Initially, there were summer tires and snow tires.
- Several decades ago, the all-season tire was introduced to give drivers better winter driving performance and the opportunity to avoid the cost and inconvenience of the semi-annual winter tire changeover.

TIRES: KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

- All tire rubber stiffens as the weather gets colder, but the latest generations of winter tires maintain their elasticity even at extremely low temperatures approaching -30°C and below, providing superior traction and grip.

Snow Tires

Tires marked with the symbol of a peaked mountain with a snowflake meet specific snow traction performance requirements, and have been designed specifically for use in severe snow conditions.



- Winter/snow tires are specially designed tires that are intended to work best in low temperatures and in snowy or icy conditions common in Alberta. They are designed to provide better traction than regular or all-season tires.

- Improved traction comes from the deep treads that can grip better on snow or ice, giving drivers improved ability to start up a hill, stop or drive in deep snow.
- All-weather tires are the closest thing possible to a Canadian “all-season” tire. They have softer compounds allowing them to be stamped with the Mountain/snowflake symbol but they do not wear as rapidly in the summer as a winter tire would.

THE LAW IN ALBERTA

- Currently, Alberta has not mandated winter tires for vehicles during the winter months.
- However, Alberta Transportation recommends driving in severe winter conditions with vehicles equipped with four winter or all-weather tires for improved traction and control.