



# Passenger & Commercial Chain Law



	Code 17	Code 18	Code 15	Code 16	Road Closed
<b>2WD Passenger Vehicles</b> 	Safe Tire Tread -Summer Tires OK	Safe Tire Tread -Summer Tires OK	Required: All-Season or Snow Tires with adequate tread depth or Chains or ATDs	Required: Chains or ATDs	



## Tire Chain Requirements



### STRAIGHT TRUCKS

Are required to chain 4 drive tires

Vehicles in this group may use 4 tire chains; 4 AutoSocks; 4 tire cables 0.415" diameter or greater; auto chains or sanders covering 4 drive tires.

CODE 17&18



### SINGLE DRIVE AXLE COMBINATIONS

Are required to chain 4 drive tires

Vehicles in this group may use 4 tire chains; 4 AutoSocks; auto chains or sanders covering 4 drive tires.

**NO CABLES ALLOWED**

CODE 17&18



### TANDEM DRIVE AXLE COMBINATIONS

Are required to chain 4 drive tires

Vehicles in this group may use 4 tire chains; 4 AutoSocks; 4 tire cables 0.415" diameter or greater; auto chains or sanders covering 4 drive tires.

IF there are chains on the 2 outside tires of one of the drive axles, any type of tire cable may be used to cover 2 tires on the other drive axle; AutoSocks may also be used to cover 2 tires on the other drive axle.

**AUTO SOCKS AND TIRE CABLES CAN'T BE USED TOGETHER. CODE 18**



### BUSSES

Are only required to cover 2 drive tires

Busses may use 2 tire chains, 2 tire cables 0.415" diameter or greater; 2 AutoSocks; auto chains or sanders.

CODE 17&18



### AUTO TRANSPORTERS

Are required to chain 4 drive tires

However, chains should not be used if their use would place hydraulic lines at risk of damage (ATDs may be used to mitigate the risk). Auto transporters may use 4 tire chains; 4 AutoSocks; 4 tire cables 0.415 or greater; auto chains or sanders covering 4 drive tires.

**Auto Transporters may be restricted from travel if they are unable to chain due to risk of damage to hydraulic lines.**

CODE 17&18



## Frequently Asked Questions



**Are chains required for trailers? No.**  
**When can chains be removed? Call 511 or visit COTRIP.org for current chain law status.** The chain law will cease where bare descending pavement is encountered, and when electronic signs no longer display "chain law in effect."

### Where are chain-up stations?

**I-70 Eastbound:** Mileposts 178, 183, 184 (shoulder), 187 (shoulder), 195, 203 (scenic area), 205, 219, 228, 241, 251, 289, 343

**I-70 Westbound:** Mileposts 358, 263, 260, 254 (Buffalo Overlook), 228, 223, 221, 219, 213, 197, 179

**I-25 Northbound:** Milepost 159

**I-25 Southbound:** Milepost 172

**Must hazardous material tankers and transporters comply with the chain law? Yes.** Vehicles placarded for hazardous loads may pass the chain-up signs and install chains where pavement is covered by snow or ice, at a safe location outside the traveled portion of the highway.

### What are the fines for violations?

The fine for not carrying chains on I-70 between mileposts 133-259 from Sept. 1-May 31 is *\$50 plus a \$17 surcharge*. Statewide, the fine for not chaining up when the chain law is in effect is *\$500 plus a \$79 surcharge*. The fine for blocking a highway as a result of not chaining up is *\$1,000 plus a \$157 surcharge*.