

MT TIRE CHAIN LAWS

Q. When do I need chains?

- The Department of Transportation has areas that are signed and designated as “chain up” areas. (see page two)
- Montana law requires chains be used when “chains are required” signs are posted. Chains are required on the drive wheels of one axle of a vehicle.

Q. Are chains required to be carried by tractor-trailers?

- Between October 1 and April 30 towing units 26,001 lbs. GVW (gross vehicle weight) or greater must carry tire chains or an approved traction device when traveling anywhere where tire chains may be required.
- *Note: This does not apply to a vehicle with four-wheel drive.*
<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/tire-restrictions.aspx>

Q. What MDT websites contain tire chain information?

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/mdt-faq.aspx>

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/tire-restrictions.aspx>

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/maint/chain-locations.pdf>

LOCATIONS WHERE TIRE CHAINS MAY BE REQUIRED

Name	Location	County
INTERSTATES		
Elk Park*	I-15S RM 148-143	Jefferson
Boulder Hill	I-15N/S RM 168-175	Jefferson
Lookout Pass*	I-90W RM 4-0	Mineral
Homestake Pass	I-90E/W RM 228-241	Silverbow/Jefferson
Cardwell Hill	I-90E/W RM 256-262	Jefferson
Bozeman Pass	I-90E/W RM 319-323	Gallatin/Park
Aberdeen Hill*	I-90E RM 548-554	Big Horn
US HIGHWAYS		
Yaak Hill*	US-2W RM 7-4	Lincoln
Goatlick Hill*	US-2E RM 179-192	Flathead
Marias Pass*	US-2E RM 192-199	Flathead/Glacier
Lolo Pass*	US-12W RM 4-0	Missoula
Deep Creek Canyon	US-12E/W RM 12-30	Broadwater/Meagher
MacDonald Pass	US-12E/W RM 23-35	Powell/Lewis & Clark
Targhee Pass*	US-20W RM 2-0	Gallatin
Lewistown Divide	US-87N/S RM 86-95	Fergus
Kings Hill	US-89N/S RM 25-33	Meagher/Cascade
Lost Trail Pass*	US-93S RM 8-0	Ravalli
Evaro Hill*	US-93N RM 4-7	Missoula
Fosters Hill	US-191N/S RM 10-13	Fergus
Judith Gap Hill	US-191N/S RM 14-18	Wheatland
Missouri Breaks	US-191N/S RM 84-91	Fergus/Phillips
Lame Deer Divide	US-212E/W RM 46-54	Rosebud
Home Creek Divide	US-212E/W RM 80-83	Powder River
Norris Hill	US-287N/S RM 56-64	Madison
MONTANA HIGHWAYS		
Chief Joseph Pass*	MT-43W RM 4-0	Beaverhead/Ravalli
Rogers Pass	MT-200E/W RM 86-93	Lewis & Clark
Virginia City Hill	MT-287N/S RM 4-14	Madison
SECONDARY HIGHWAYS		
Big Hole Pass	S-278E/W RM 30-35	Beaverhead

*Chains are only required in one direction. RM = Reference Marker