

Your weather tyre guide



How does the wintry weather affect my tyres?

Winter weather typically means plenty of moisture on the road surface, plummeting temperatures and the potential for ice and snow. All of these require a tyre with the right rubber compound and correct tread to provide optimal grip.

Which tyres are best for changing conditions?

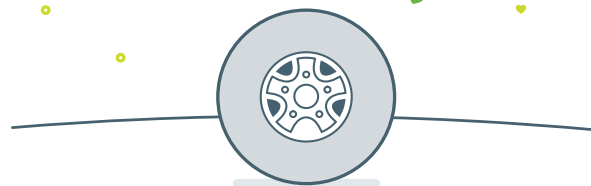
Modern tyre manufacturers now create specific rubber compounds and treads to suit several conditions.

Tyre seller Oponeo, for example, suggests that when the thermometer dips below 7 degrees Celsius, it's time to swap out standard summer tyres for those designed specifically to handle colder climates.

That said, it's important to keep on top of shifting weather conditions and swap back to summer tyres when the temperature rises, as braking distances typically increase with winter tyres when the thermometer reaches 20 degrees Celsius or more.

What about all-weather tyres?

There is, of course, an alternative: the all-weather tyre. The benefit of fitting all-weather tyres is obvious: less hassle and less cost. However, they usually offer less traction than winter tyres in winter and summer tyres in summer. Of course, it depends entirely on the weather conditions in your area – if you rarely see snow, an all-weather tyre might be enough to cope with slippery road surfaces.



When should I fit winter tyres?

Unlike some European countries, it's not a legal requirement to fit winter tyres in the UK, but they're still the safest option when the road's covered in snow and ice or cold and damp conditions.

We don't tend to have lots of snow in the UK over winter, so the choice to fit winter tyres should be down to geographical location and personal preference. Advice across the board says it's sensible to make the switch when temperatures drop below 7 degrees Celsius, or between October and March.

Most importantly, if the weather's really bad, you should just consider not driving if you can.

Will I ever need snow chains?

If you're driving abroad during the winter, or climbing into snowy conditions, you might have to think about adding snow chains. Otherwise, snow chains should be seen as a last resort and only used when there's a very thick blanket of snow on the roads. The harsh metal construction of the chain can damage the road surface and they have an adverse effect on the way a car drives and handles.

Switching to winter tyres, and then back to summer ones, could well keep you safer on the roads.



LV=
BROKER