Truck Parking Guide
Long Term Parking - Emergency Parking - Chain Stations

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Not For Sale
This publication is part of the Colorado Department of Transportation’s ongoing effort to improve safety and convenience for truck drivers along I-70, I-76 and I-25. The purpose of the Colorado Truck Parking Guide is to provide truck drivers with parking information for normal and emergency conditions as well as identify Chain Stations for times when chain restrictions are in effect.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this guide. However, it is possible there are errors or omissions in the guide due to conditions that have changed, or otherwise. CDOT makes no guarantee or warranty to the accuracy, completeness, currency, or suitability of the information provided in this guide which is presented “as is”.

If you encounter an error in the guide please contact CDOT by e-mail at info@dot.state.co.us, by phone 800-999-4997, or on Twitter, @Coloradodot.

Do not attempt to use this guide while operating a vehicle.
Table of Contents

Frequently Asked Questions.............................II
Winter Driving..................................................III
  Chain Law..................................................IV
  Violations...............................................VI
  Chain Stations..........................................VI
Left Lane Law................................................VII
Noise Law..................................................VII
Waste Law..................................................VII
Move Over Law..............................................VIII
Seat Belt Law...............................................VIII
Grades......................................................IX
Brake Check Areas.........................................IX
Runaway Truck Ramps.....................................IX
Restrictions................................................X
Mountain Passes.........................................XI
Hazardous Material.......................................XII
Map Legend...............................................XIII
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q** Why am I being asked to stop when the road closure is so far away?  
**A** Allowing trips to continue towards a road closure compounds problems by filling emergency parking beyond capacity. Trucks are forced to park illegally thereby incurring fines and creating additional traffic hazards and congestion.

**Q** After a road closure, why am I still being told to park when I hear over the radio that other areas are being released?  
**A** After a road closure, vehicles are released in a staged manner to ensure the safe and efficient flow of traffic. Releasing vehicles at the same time increases congestion, which can create greater delays and reduce safety.

**Q** After I chain up, can I continue with my load?  
**A** Yes; however, for safety and efficiency purposes, CDOT personnel or law enforcement may control the reentry of vehicles from the chain station to the highway.

**Q** When can I take my chains off?  
**A** When designated by sign or when bare pavement is present on a descending grade. Call 511 for current chain law status.

**Q** Does my trailer need to be chained when chains are required?  
**A** Colorado has no rule or statute requiring chains on trailers.

**Q** Where can I chain-up?  
**A** Refer to the Colorado Truck Parking Guide for chain station locations.
It is not uncommon for travel conditions around Colorado to vary significantly, not only between the plains and the mountains, but literally from mile to mile on the same road.

At times, temperatures can hover in the fifties near Denver while snow is falling a short 30 minute drive west of town. High winds can limit visibility during snow storms. Shaded areas of the mountains and canyon roads can also present icy conditions on otherwise dry highways. Although uncommon, Colorado has even had snow in the higher elevations on the 4th of July! All of these factors make Colorado a distinctive place to drive.

In an effort to minimize the effects of Colorado's special weather and road conditions, reduce travel delays and, in a proactive approach to fighting air pollution, Colorado has implemented intensive public information campaigns, adopted strict chain guidelines for commercial vehicles and begun widespread use of alternative de-icing compounds.

The CDOT Winter Driving Initiative is a comprehensive safe driving program designed to educate motorists in Colorado regarding winter driving conditions. The Winter Driving Initiative focuses on providing information and answering questions in four areas: Road treatments, snow removal, road conditions, and winter driving preparedness. By providing a single source of information in these areas, CDOT hopes to raise awareness of winter driving issues and help keep Colorado roads safer.
The chain law applies to all state, federal, and interstate highways in Colorado.

**Definitions** - Under the Colorado chain law, a commercial vehicle is defined as being used in commerce to transport passengers or property and fitting into one of the following categories:

- Has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more lbs. inclusive of towed unit which has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 lbs.
- Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more lbs.
- Is designated to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

**Notification**—When the chain law is in effect, drivers will be notified which vehicles must chain up and where by the following means: electronic message signs; 511 traveler information; www.cotrip.org; and media outlets.

**Carrying chains on I-70** - Commercial vehicles operating on I-70 in either direction between mileposts 133 (Dotsero) and 259 (Morrison) from September 1 to May 31 must carry sufficient chains at all times to be in compliance with the Colorado chain law.

**Chaining up**—The chain law and the temporary road closures may occur at any time based on road conditions. When a highway reopens, or after chaining-up, re-entry onto the highway may be controlled to facilitate the safe and efficient flow of traffic. Metal chains must consist of two circular metal loops, one on each side of the tire, connected by not less than nine evenly-spaced chain loops across the tread. Commercial vehicles that have four or more drive wheels must chain four wheels. Dual tire chains are acceptable.
**WINTER DRIVING**

**Alternate Traction Devices (ATDs)** - Approved ATDs in Colorado are wheel sanders, which must carry enough sand to get the vehicle through the restricted area; pneumatically driven chains, which spin under the drive wheels automatically as traction is lost; and textile traction device (TTD), a fabric boot which encompasses the tire. Currently, the only TTD that has been approved for use on Colorado state highways is the Auto Sock.

**Tire Cables** - With only two exceptions, Colorado chain law rules do not permit tire cables as alternate traction devices. The exceptions are: 1) tire cables with high strength steel cross member rollers 0.415” or greater in diameter, which can be used on all commercial vehicles except single drive axle combinations; and 2) on a tandem power drive axle commercial vehicle, where any type of cable can be used only if there are chains on the two outside tires of one of the power drive axles and cables on two or more tires of the other power drive axle.

**Chain Law Level 1** - All single drive axle combination commercial vehicles must chain all four drive wheels; cables are not permitted as ATDs. All other commercial vehicles must have snow tires or chains. Level 1 may be implemented anytime there is snow covering any part of the traveled portion of pavement on an ascending grade.

**Chain Law Level 2** - All commercial vehicles must chain up. Single drive axle and tandem drive axle combination commercial vehicles must chain four drive wheels. Auto transports must comply to the extent possible without causing damage to hydraulic lines. Buses must chain two drive wheels to comply. Level 2 may be implemented any time there is snow covering the entire traveled portion of pavement on an ascending grade, or when driving conditions dictate that this level is necessary to protect safety and to minimize road closures.
WINTER DRIVING

Violations - The fine for not carrying chains on I-70 between mileposts 133 and 259 from September 1 to 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 not chaining up and subsequently blocking the highway is $1,000 plus a $157 surcharge. Chain laws are strictly enforced and trucks may be subject to inspection.

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

When can chains be removed? Call 511 for current chain law status. The chain law will cease where bare descending pavement is encountered, and when electronic signs cease to display ‘chain law in effect’ information.

More information on Colorado’s chain law can be found at www.cotrip.org.

Chain Stations - 30 minute parking only


**Left Lane Law**

A driver shall not drive in the left-most lane (passing lane) of a multi-lane highway with a posted speed limit of 65 mph or greater unless they are passing other vehicles, turning left, or if the volume of traffic does not allow them to merge to the right (non-passing lane). Violators of the Left Lane Law can be cited.

**Noise Law**

Many of Colorado’s highways pass near or through communities and residential areas. Because of the close proximity to the highway, people in these areas are especially sensitive to highway noise. When traveling though these areas, please be a good neighbor and don’t use train whistles and air horns unless necessary for safety. Colorado law requires commercial vehicles equipped with an engine compression brake device to have a muffler for the device. Violation of this law is punishable by a fine.

**Waste Law**

It is illegal in Colorado to throw or deposit waste from a vehicle upon the highway. This includes the discarding of human waste (feces or urine) along the highway. The depositing of human waste along a highway is punishable by a fine.
**Move Over Law**

When approaching an emergency or maintenance vehicle operating its emergency lights on the shoulder a driver must safely move to the left lane when two or more lanes are available. If traffic, road, or weather conditions do not allow a driver to move over to the left lane, drivers must slow to a safe speed while moving past the emergency vehicle. Violation of the “Move Over Law” could result in 4 points against the violator’s Colorado driver’s license.

**Seat Belt Law**

Colorado law requires the driver and all front seat passengers to wear safety belts whenever a truck is operated on a public road in the state. The requirement does not apply if federal law does not require the vehicle to be equipped with safety belt systems. The driver of the vehicle is responsible for buckling up and ensuring all passengers covered by the law are buckled up. A driver may be fined for violating the law.

*Additional information on Colorado Seat Belt Law is available at [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org).*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-70</td>
<td>GEORGETOWN HILL:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAIL PASS (WEST SIDE): 7% GRADE Mileposts 180-195</td>
<td>7% GRADE Mileposts 225-229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EISENHOWER TUNNEL (WEST SIDE): 7% GRADE Mileposts 208-214</td>
<td>FLOYD HILL: 7% GRADE Mileposts 254-260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EISENHOWER TUNNEL (EAST SIDE): 6% GRADE Mileposts 215-220</td>
<td>MOUNT VERNON CANYON: 7% GRADE Mileposts 254-260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brake Check Areas</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-70 EASTBOUND Milepost 213 (Eisenhower Tunnel)</td>
<td>I-70 WESTBOUND Mileposts 215, 213 (Eisenhower Tunnel)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Runaway Truck Ramps</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-70 EASTBOUND Milepost 257</td>
<td>I-70 WESTBOUND Mileposts 210, 209, 185, 182</td>
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</tbody>
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I-70 Restrictions

GLENWOOD CANYON:
Mileposts 114 to 133
  Height: No permitted loads over 16 feet 6 inches
  Width and length: Rear pilot car required for permitted loads that exceed 13 feet in width or 85 feet in length.

Mileposts 118 to 132
  Commercial Vehicles Right Lane Only

VAIL PASS:
Mileposts 180 to 190 (WESTBOUND)
  Commercial Vehicles 45MPH

EISENHOWER TUNNEL WEST APPROACH:
Mileposts 208 to 214 (WESTBOUND)
  Commercial Vehicles 30MPH

EISENHOWER TUNNEL:
Mileposts 213 to 215
  Permitted loads must follow the directions on their permit for the Eisenhower Tunnel.
  Height: No loads over 13 feet 11 inches
  Width: Permitted loads over 11 feet must get permission from the Tunnel Attendant to enter the tunnel. Loads wider than 12 feet may have to wait to go through. To avoid delays, the use of US 6 (Loveland Pass) is optional. Hazmat vehicles are required to use Loveland Pass.

GEORGETOWN HILL:
Mileposts 225 to 229 (WESTBOUND)
  55MPH minimum Left Lane

Mileposts 225 to 229 (EASTBOUND)
  Commercial Vehicles 45MPH & Right Lane Only
FLOYD HILL:
Milepost 244 to 247 (WESTBOUND)
   Commercial Vehicles 45MPH & Right Lane Only

MOUNT VERNON CANYON:
Milepost 254 to 260 (WESTBOUND)
   55MPH minimum Left Lane
Milepost 254 to 260 (EASTBOUND)
   Commercial Vehicles 35MPH & Right Lane Only

LIMON:
EXIT 359
   Height: No permitted loads over 15 feet 9 inches. Loads over 15 feet 9 inches tall may go around Structure G-22-BA at the junction of I-70 and US 24 by using the off and on ramps.

Mountain Passes

VAIL PASS, 10,666’ ELEVATION
   Summit at Milepost 190

EISENHOWER TUNNEL, 11,158’ ELEVATION
   Between Mileposts 214-215
Hazardous Material

I-70, I-76, and I-25 are all designated Hazardous Material Routes. There are two locations in Colorado where the route for vehicles transporting hazardous materials deviate from these routes. These locations are as follows:

**EISENHOWER TUNNEL**

**I-70 Mileposts 213 to 215:** Vehicles transporting hazardous materials are required to use US 6 (EB Exit 205, WB Exit 216) to bypass the Eisenhower Tunnel. If this section of US 6 is closed for any reason, CDOT will process vehicles transporting hazardous materials through the Eisenhower Tunnel at the top of the hour. Vehicles may wait for processing through the tunnel at the staging areas at the approaches to the tunnel (EB Milepost 213, WB Milepost 215).

**DOWNTOWN DENVER**

**Mileposts 269 to 279:** Vehicles transporting hazardous materials are required to use I-76 and I-270 (EB Exit 269B, WB Exit 279) to bypass Downtown Denver.
Exits and Mileposts with Parking Available

Runaway Truck Ramp

MP-Milepost

Chain Stations

Steep Grades

**Map Legend**

- Exits and Mileposts with Parking Available
- Runaway Truck Ramp
- MP-Milepost
- Chain Stations
- Steep Grades

**Fruita Exit**

- Loco Truck Stop
- 56 parking spaces
- FULL SERVICE
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- Welcome Center
- 4 spaces

**Exit Name or Milepost**
Name of location with truck parking available
Approximate number of spaces available for truck parking
Services available at this exit
Emergency parking location
Number of spaces available for emergency truck parking

*Emergency Parking- areas identified as emergency parking are only to be used in the event of a closure of the interstate highway.*

*CDOT makes no guarantee parking areas (regular or emergency) identified in this guide will be available for parking. Identified parking areas may be unusable because of weather, natural events, road conditions, road work, emergency activities, or because other vehicles are parked in the areas. Maps shown in this guide are not drawn to scale.*
I-70 Map 1
Trucks must carry chains September 1 to May 31 from MP 133 to MP 259 (See page IV for more info)

**Dotsero Exit**
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- West Lot
  - 180 spaces
- WB Frontage Rd Shoulder
  - 400 spaces
- EB Frontage Rd Shoulder
  - (2.5 miles east from off-ramp)
  - 45 spaces
- NO SERVICES

See close-up Map A

**Eagle Exit**
- Fairgrounds
  - 40 parking spaces
  - (May be unavailable during Fairground events)

**Gypsum Exit**
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- WB Ramps
  - 12 spaces
- EB Ramps
  - 10 spaces
- FULL SERVICE

**Wolcott Exit**
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- WB Ramps
  - 6 spaces
- EB Ramps
  - 6 spaces
- FULL SERVICE

**WB Scenic Area**
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- WB Ramps
  - 5 spaces
- NO SERVICES

**EB Scenic Area**
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- EB Ramps
  - 3 spaces
- NO SERVICES
**Westbound Chain Stations**

- MP 177 - 9 spaces
- 30 minute parking only

**East Vail Exit**

- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- WB Ramps
  - 5 spaces
- EB Ramps
  - 5 spaces

**Vail Pass Rest Area**

- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- Rest Area
  - 6 spaces
- WB Ramps
  - 5 spaces

**Edwards Exit**

- Rest Area
  - South of Hwy
  - 18 parking spaces

**Vail Pass**

elev. 10,662 ft.
Airport Blvd Exit
Flying J Travel Center
149 parking spaces
FULL SERVICE

Watkins Exit
Diamond Shamrock
35 parking spaces

EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
EB Ramps 2 spaces
WB Ramps 4 spaces

Kiowa/Bennett Exit
Rest Area
20 parking spaces

EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
EB Ramps 10 spaces

Watkins Rd. Exit
Tomahawk Truck Stop
190 parking spaces
FULL SERVICE

Bennett Exit 304
Loves Travel Center
92 parking spaces

EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
EB Ramps 4 spaces
WB Ramps 3 spaces

WB and EB Chain Stations
WB MP 290 - 5 spaces
EB MP 290 5 spaces
30 minute parking only

Quebec St. Exit
TA Travel Center
225 parking spaces
Sapp Bros.
275 parking spaces
FULL SERVICE

Strasburg Exit
WB Ramps 5 spaces
EB Ramps 8 spaces
NO SERVICES

Watkins Exit 295
Rest Area
20 parking spaces

EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
EB Ramps 10 spaces

Watkins Rd. Exit 285
Diamond Shamrock
35 parking spaces

EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
EB Ramps 2 spaces
WB Ramps 4 spaces

Watkins Rd. Exit 278
Airport Blvd Exit
Flying J Travel Center
149 parking spaces
FULL SERVICE

Hazardous Materials Route
During an incident or severe weather event, CDOT may allow additional emergency parking at various off-highway locations between milepost 133 and 147.
Greenland Exit
- NB Ramps: 2 spaces
- SB Ramps: 2 spaces
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- NO SERVICES

County Line Rd. Exit
- SB Ramps: 6 spaces
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- NO SERVICES

Monument Exit
- Conoco
- 15 parking spaces
- FULL SERVICE
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- NB Ramps: 6 spaces
- SB Ramps: 10 spaces

Baptist Rd. Exit
- Diamond Shamrock
- 30 parking spaces
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- SB Ramps: 10 spaces

Northbound Chain Station
- MP 157 - 10 spaces
- 30 minute parking only

Interquest Pkwy Exit
- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
- NB Ramps: 6 spaces
- SB Ramps: 4 spaces
**Colorado City Exit**

- Diamond Shamrock
- 25 parking spaces
- Rest Area
- 8 parking spaces

**EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES**

- SB Ramps
  - 2 spaces
- NB Ramps
  - 2 spaces

**FULL SERVICE**

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**Abby Rd Exit**

- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
  - NB Ramps
    - 2 spaces
  - SB Ramps
    - 3 spaces

**NO SERVICES**

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**Graneros Rd. Exit**

- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
  - NB Ramps
    - 2 spaces
  - SB Ramps
    - 1 space

**NO SERVICES**

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**Apache Exit**

- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
  - SB Ramps
    - 4 spaces

**NO SERVICES**

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**Lascar Rd. Exit**

- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
  - NB Ramps
    - 2 spaces
  - SB Ramps
    - 2 spaces

**NO SERVICES**

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**Huerfano Exit**

- EMERGENCY PARKING SPACES
  - NB Ramps
    - 2 spaces
  - SB Ramps
    - 2 spaces

**NO SERVICES**
REPORT DUI & AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS
DIAL (*CSP) (*277)
from your cell phone or 303-239-4501

EMERGENCIES
DIAL 911 or 303-239-4501

For non-emergencies, call Colorado State Patrol headquarters at 303-239-4500
Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
www.csp.state.co.us

Contact CDOT Maintenance at 303-512-5500
www.coloradodot.info

COLORADO DRIVING CONDITIONS
Recorded Road and Weather Information Hotline
In State Toll-Free: 511 on any Colorado based phone (accessible in most areas)
or www.cotrip.org or on Twitter @Coloradodot
Also subscribe to CDOT for text message or email alerts at www.coloradodot.info

UTAH, WYOMING, NEBRASKA, KANSAS, and NEW MEXICO DRIVING CONDITIONS
A phone recording of driving conditions in these states is available
by dialing 511 within the state’s borders.

TRUCK PARKING GUIDE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS
800-999-4997 or info@dot.state.co.us