



To which types of vehicles does the state's Chain Law apply?

Colorado's Chain Law most commonly applies to commercial vehicles. This includes:

- Vehicles with a gross weight of at least 26,001 pounds
- Vehicles with a gross combination weight of at least 26,001 pounds if this includes a towed unit with a gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds
- Vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver

What are the requirements of the state's Chain Law?

Drivers of commercial vehicles along US 36 between Lyons and Estes Park should carry tire chains or approved traction devices in their vehicles if traveling during the winter months. When a Chain Law is in effect, commercial vehicles (except buses) need to have four or more drive wheels covered with an appropriate traction device. Buses are only required to cover two tires.

Besides tire chains are there other alternative traction devices?

Other approved traction devices include auto chains, autosocks, sanders and tire cables greater than .415 inches in diameter.

Does the Chain Law ever apply to drivers of passenger vehicles?

In rare circumstances where weather conditions are so severe that the Traction Law is deemed insufficient for passenger vehicles, CDOT might enact a Chain Law for all vehicles as a last resort before closing the highway.

How do I know if the Chain Law is in effect for US 36?

There are several ways you can check on the Chain Law status before you head up US 36:

- Log onto www.cotrip.org and select truckers from the pulldown menu at the top
- Look for roadside variable message boards just west of downtown Lyons and just east of Mall Road in Estes Park

What might happen if I don't heed the law?

- You increase the likelihood of spinning out on the road and/or getting in an accident.
- You increase the likelihood of your truck not being able to climb hills and stalling out on the road.
- You run the risk of being fined. Driving without chains when the law is in effect carries a fine of at least \$500 and blocking the highway as a result of not chaining up carries a fine of at least \$1,000.

Where can I get more information on the state's Chain Law?

- [Click here for more information about the state's Chain Law](#)
- [Click here for a list of chain up tips](#)
- [Click here for a list of chain up tips for passenger and smaller commercial vehicles](#)