

Snow Tire Policies

What you need to know



LeasePlan

What's next?

What you need to know

It is recommended that every fleet develop a snow tire policy that meets your fleet and business requirements. Fleet surveys show that only approximately 50% of fleets have a formal snow tire policy.

Provincial recommendations

All Canadian provinces recommend installing your winter tires when the temperature dips below 7 degrees Celsius. The reason for this is quite simple: summer tires don't grip the pavement as well in colder temperatures, and all-season tires don't perform well in harsh winter conditions, such as ice and packed snow.

Additionally, when the temperature goes above 7°C, heat can cause the rubber on winter tires to wear out prematurely and decreases their number of useful years.

The average temperature in Canada is below 7°C from December through March. Winter tires provide a better grip to the road during this time. Annual snowfall averages across Canada generally meet or exceed the minimum standards for winter tires on US policies.

Provincial Requirements by Law

There are currently two Canadian Provinces who mandate snow tires by law:

Quebec:

The province of Quebec, which instituted the law in 2007, requires that all motorists install four winter tires on their vehicle, from December 15 to March 15. As of December 15, 2014, all winter tires must be marked with the symbol of a snowflake and mountain on the sidewall.

British Columbia:

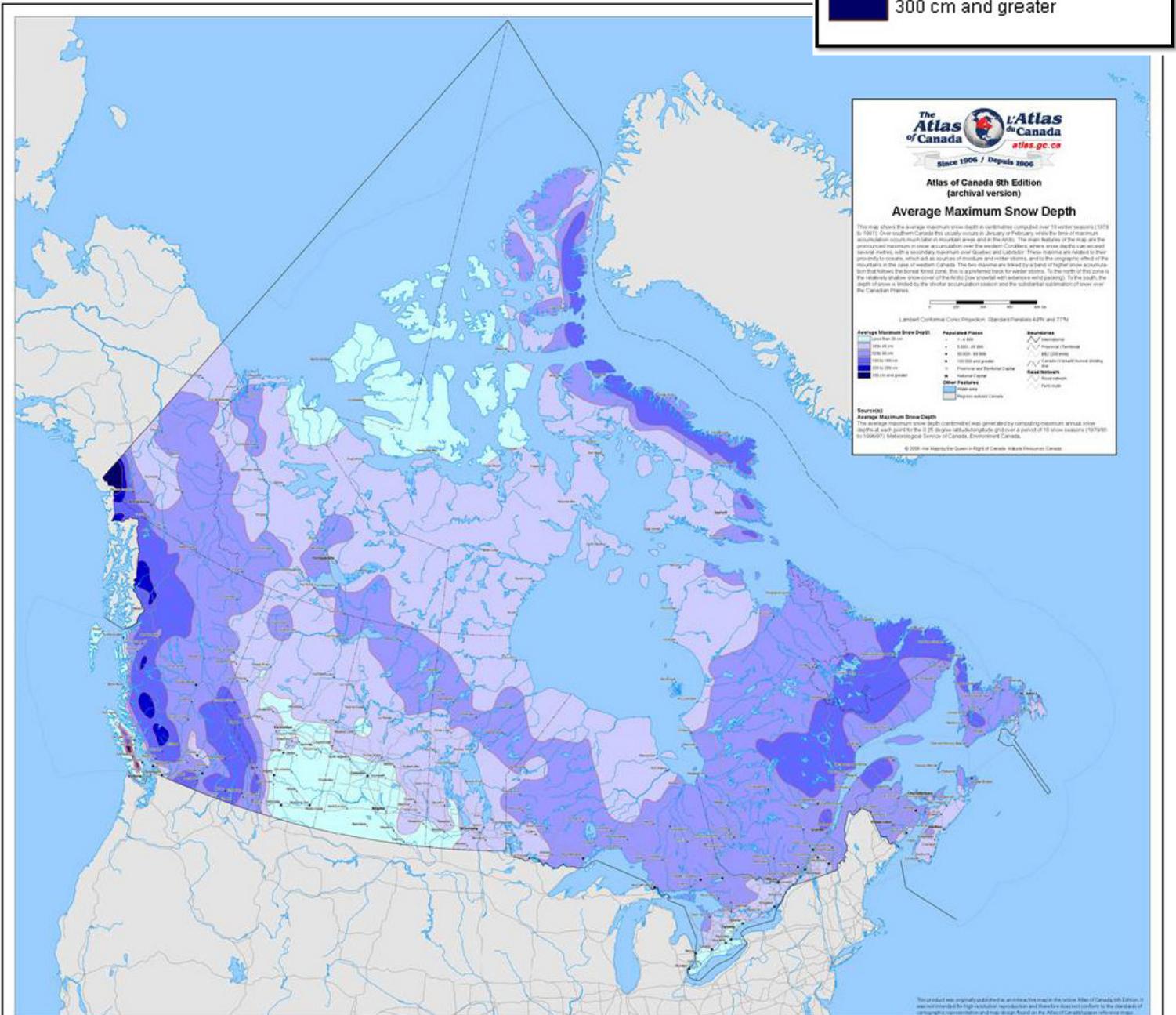
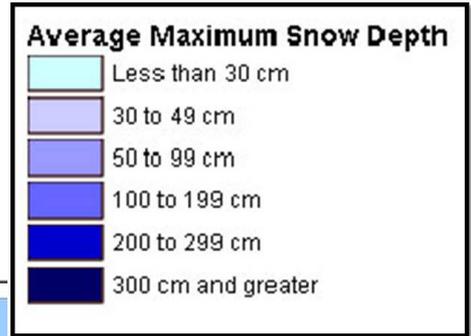
Winter tires are required in BC on many rural highways and high mountain passes in the Interior, North and Vancouver Island.

Tires marked with the pictograph of a peaked mountain with a snowflake meet specific snow traction performance requirements, and have been designed specifically for use in severe snow conditions.



Mean Annual Snowfall

The National Center for Environmental Information defines "heavy snow" regions as areas that receive more than 48 inches (121.9 cm) of snow annually.



Recommendations

All-weather tires

Tire manufacturers have developed an all-weather tire that can be used all year long in Canada as it is 'snowflake' rated for use as a winter tire.

This tire is available in most tire sizes and is starting to be used in fleets across Canada. This type of tire eliminates the expense of a tire changeover 2x per year and the frustration of storing the tires not in use.

This would equate to a savings of \$200 plus storage fees per vehicle each year.

It is recommended that every fleet should develop a snow tire policy that meets your fleet and business requirements. Fleet surveys show that only approximately 50% of fleets have a formal snow tire policy.

A snow tire policy should consider:

- Whether snow tires are required in certain provinces/territories
- Does the company have a union and/or safety policies that mandate increased driver safety?
- Do your competitors have a formal snow tire policy?
- If a minimum annual snowfall amount or "snowbelt" region is required
- If a driver's home and/or territory requires more than 50% of time in "heavy snowfall" regions
- Should SUV/AWD vehicles be made available for drivers who travel in "heavy snowfall" regions?
- Who is responsible for the cost & liability of tire storage?
- Is an all-weather tire the right option for your vehicles?

IMPORTANT – Many fleets feel that they can mitigate risk by developing a formal snow tire policy and/or offering snow tires/alternative vehicles. This is true if something does happen to a driver who was previously denied snow tires. It is recommended that each fleet check this with their HR/Legal/Risk department(s).

British Columbia Highways – Winter Tires or Carry Chains: October 1 to March 31

For full maps visit
www2.gov.bc.ca



Yearly Snowfall Averages for Major Canadian Cities

Days of Snow	City	Inches	Centimetres
79	St. John's, Newfoundland	131.9	335.0
73	Charlottetown, PEI	114.3	290.4
25	Halifax, Nova Scotia	60.7	154.2
50	Moncton, New Brunswick	111.0	282.0
70	Québec City, Quebec	119.4	303.4
59	Montréal, Quebec	82.5	209.5
52	Ottawa, Ontario	69.1	175.4
41	Toronto, Ontario	47.8	121.5
53	Winnipeg, Manitoba	44.8	113.7
56	Regina, Saskatchewan	39.4	100.2
52	Edmonton, Alberta	48.6	123.5
54	Calgary, Alberta	50.7	128.8
9	Vancouver, British Columbia	17.5	44.6
67	Whitehorse, Yukon	55.8	142
79	Yellowknife, NWT	62.1	157.6
114	Iqaluit, Nunavut	90.3	229.3





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