

# Chain Law Overview

## WHAT IS IT?

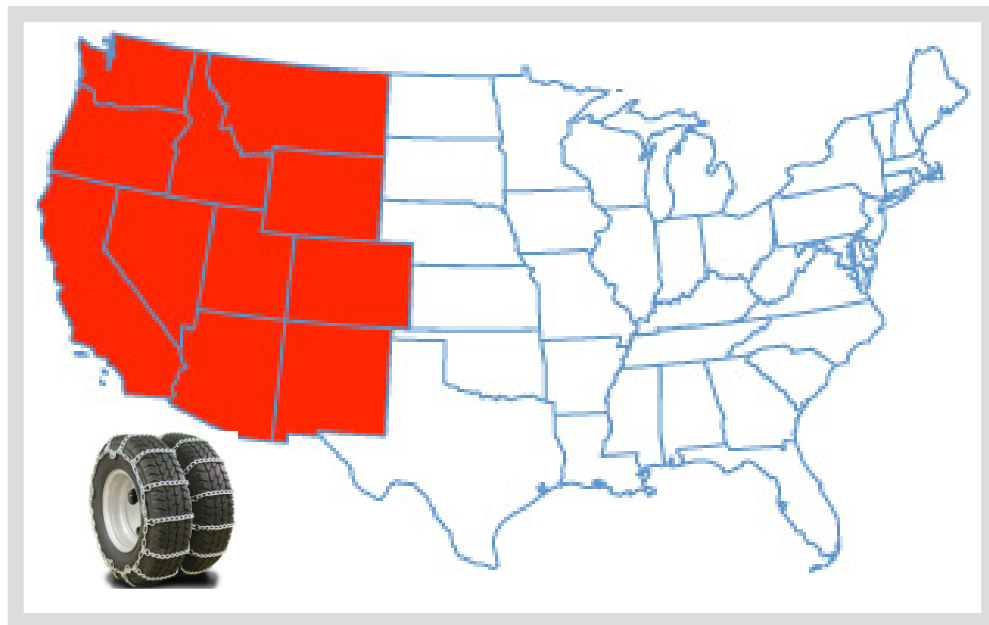
When adverse weather conditions are prevalent, some states require trucks to place chains on the tires while driving through the entire state or sections of the state. These chains wrap around the entire tire and provide additional traction and stability. This law typically pertains to anything over 26,001 pounds in gross vehicle weight. The Chain Law is most often enforced in states near the Rocky Mountains or while traveling in the high peaks of the Rocky's, where weather conditions can change rapidly.

## WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?

These laws affect all commercial vehicles and are typically in effect from September 1 to May 31st (varies by state and weather dependent).

## WHERE DOES IT OCCUR?

**Arizona**  
**California**  
**Colorado**  
**Idaho**  
**Montana**  
**New Mexico**  
**Nevada**  
**Oregon**  
**Utah**  
**Washington**  
**Wyoming**



## COMMUNICATION

Drivers and operators are notified via Highway Visual Messaging Systems, state 511 websites, and other media outlets.

## IMPACT

Chain Laws will impact transit time significantly. They add time to "chain up" and "chain down" and in addition, most trucks only travel 35 to 40 mph with Tire Chains on, which increases transit time. Most over-dimensional permitted loads are required to shut down during adverse weather conditions as well. There are heavy fines if trucks fail to both carry chains, and/or "chain up" during adverse weather conditions.

## ALTERNATIVES

Some states allow "approved alternative devices" in the place of tire chains such as tire sanders, auto socks, or tire spinners.

All states will enforce their Chain Laws independently - it is crucial to check with the Department of Transportation in each state you will be hauling through to understand and comply with their unique requirements.