

FAQs on Buying Tyres

RSA

What tyres are suitable for a vehicle? Refer to the owner's manual or contact the original manufacturer. We recommend using A-rated tyres.

Do all four tyres have to be the same? No, however under testing laws a vehicle will fail its roadworthiness test if the two tyres on the one axle are not the same size or type e.g. radial vs. cross-ply, run-flat, winter or summer. For best performance the same type of tyre should be fitted in all four wheel positions.

Can 'off-road tyres' be used on the road? Some off-road tyres are marked with words such as '*off-road use only*' and these may not be used on a public road. However, if your off-road tyres are type approved i.e. e-marked, s-marked and have a minimum 1.6 mm tread depth they can be used on the road as normal.

Do I need to fit snow or winter tyres during cold weather? Currently there is no law in Ireland which states that you should or should not fit such tyres. We advise that should you wish to install a set of snow tyres always install a full set of four to reduce the risks of over and under steer. Once the possibility of snow is gone remove snow or winter tyres and reinstall all-season or summer tyres.

Can I use traction devices e.g. snow chains, cables, snow socks, studded tyres etc. during wintry conditions? There is no law against the use of such devices however they must be properly fitted to tyres according to manufacturer's specifications.

Do all tyres have to carry an s-mark? Any tyre manufactured since 01 October 2011 must bear an s-Mark. This stands for '*Sound*' and shows the amount of road noise produced by the tyre complies with EU or international standards.

Are mud and snow tyres the same as winter tyres?

Not necessarily. M+S tyres are available in both winter and Summer variations.

- A winter M+S tyre will bear the winter symbol i.e. snowflake inside a mountain in addition to the M+S lettering.
- A summer M+S tyre will only have the M+S on the sidewall



Is it illegal to use re-treaded or remoulded tyres? No. They are legal here in Ireland but must bear the word 'Re-tread' and have an 'E Mark' on its sidewall. We recommend purchasing new tyres for your own safety.

What is an e or E-marked tyre?

An e-mark confirms that a tyre meets minimum EU or international UNECE standards. E-mark tyres have been tested to ensure adequate tread depth and performance ability. All motor vehicles tyre in the EU must be e-marked, whether new or re-treaded.



What laws govern the sale of re-treaded tyres in Ireland? The sale and supply of re-treaded tyres in Ireland is governed by [S.I. No. 118 of 2008](#) of the Road Traffic (Re-treaded Tyres) Regulations 2008. For a re-treaded tyre to be placed on the market, purchased, sold or fitted to a vehicle or trailer, *it must conform to a type that has been type approved and must bear the required 'E' or 'e' mark. Once re-treaded at an approved production unit, it must also bear the word 'Re-tread' on its sidewall.*

What are the regulations when importing tyres?

- New tyres placed on sale in the European market are required to be type approved to Regulation [92/23/EEC](#) (as amended) relating to tyres and Regulation 407/2011 – an amending regulation of [Regulation 661/2009](#) (General Safety Regulation) standards and will have an 'e' or 'E' mark.
- Tyres will also need to be Reach compliant i.e. any tyres placed on the market since January 2010 must be free from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). See HSA website [here](#).
- Tyres must carry a label showing wet grip, fuel efficiency and noise performance.
- For further information see tyre labelling on European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturing Association (ETRMA) website [here](#).
- For documentation required relating to imported tyres you will need to contact Customs at Revenue [here](#).

Who is responsible for quality control of tyres placed for sale on Irish market?

- For new tyres the sustainable energy authority of Ireland ([SEAI](#)) is responsible for ensuring Irish tyre retailers adhere to EU labelling laws governing the sale of new tyres.
- For second hand or part-worn tyres under the [Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act](#), any tyre sold, even second hand must be of merchantable quality and fit for purpose.

The competition and consumer protection commission ([CCPC](#)) and An Garda Síochana are responsible for enforcing this legislation.