

FAQ about STUDED TIRES

History: Studded tires were legalized in Oregon in 1967. By 1973-74 9.2% of vehicles had studded tires. Today it's 16%. Highway officials in Oregon proposed the first ban in 1974, after only 7 years of use. Special interest has kept the any legislation from moving to a vote by the Transportation Committee or the Oregon House & Senate.

Financial:

How much damage are Studded Tires estimated to cost Oregon Drivers?

ODOT spends \$11 million yearly to repair studded tire damage.(1c) Oregon estimates the damage to be as low as \$75 million (7) to as high as ½ a billion dollars per year.(8)

This has helped create a backlog of road repair in the billions.

How much more do Studdless Snow & Ice tires cost than conventional studded tires?

Studded tires: \$491.92 Studless Snow & Ice Tires \$563.92 (9)

Safety:

Western Oregon's need for studded tires is only 1% of driving conditions. That's equal to 3 or 4 days a year, maybe. (11)

Rutting caused by studded tires creates unsafe conditions when it rain causing cars to hydroplane. (3)(10)

Rutting also takes your car and steers it when changing lanes. (3)(10)

Studded Tires cause braking distance is increase on dry or wet pavement.(3)(10)

Health:

The fine dust created from the grinding, by studded tires, of the road surface forced Sapporo Japan to ban studded tires in 1990. After the ban air borne particulate matter (dust pollution) was greatly reduced.

Studded tires grind away at the road surface, generating the kind of dust particles believed to contribute to heart and respiratory disease when inhaled into the lungs.(6)(10)

Common Misconceptions:

Studded tires only added safety is at 32 degrees. Snow & Ice tires offer comparable performance that is 90 % as effective. Stud less tires offer superior performance at every other temperature range. (2)

States that have banned Studded tires, Wisconsin Minnesota and Illinois.

Countries that have banned studded tires include Belgium, Germany, Holland & Japan (10)

Studded tires are necessary: A survey in 1994-5 winter estimated that only 16% of registered vehicles in Oregon used studded tires, 84% of don't use them (1a). In Eastern Oregon only 35% of drivers actually use studded tires. (1b) That means 65% of drivers don't use them. West of the Cascades it's only 10%, that means that 90% of us seem to get to work fine without studded tires.(1b)

Three main reasons why studded tires are banned in Ontario(10):

The limited potential benefits of studded tires under icy road conditions do not compensate for the significant adverse effects they create under other conditions.

Studded tires create considerable health and road safety problems.

Studded tire use is declining in many countries and banned in many jurisdictions outside Canada.

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(a) page vii “Executive Summary”

(b) page 21 (adding regions 4 & 5 divided by 2 = 35%)

(c) page 2

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3. Washington Department of Transportation

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7. Transportation Research Board of the national academies

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8. When I talked with Lucinda Moore of ODOT I said to her “It has to be several hundred million dollars in damage” her response to me was “It’s probably closer to \$500 million”

9. Quote from Firestone Tires

10. Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Canada

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TALKING POINTS

The goal of this initiative is to inform the public that the alternative to studded tires have come along way and they perform as good or better than studded tires in a wider variety of conditions.

84% of Oregonians don’t use studded tires

Only 1/3 of Oregonians East of the Cascades use studded tires

A studded tire fee was proposed in 2002, failed in to get out of the Transportation Committee because Rep. Alan Brown (a Les Schwab tire dealer) blocked all hearings on

the bill.

Our food comes down that road; it's in our best interest to protect it.

If studded tires were so important why don't the people who use them require that we all use them?

Year round driving conditions are compromised by the use of studded tires, rutted roads lead to hydroplaning. It rains more than the need for studded tires can justify.

Asphalt is made from oil when studs were legalized oil was \$3.32 a barrel, Today oil is \$90 a barrel. The cost to repair or replace postponed damaged roads is going to cost Billions. The first thing we can do to fix our roads is to stop destroying them.

The trucks that deliver our food seem to have no problems negotiating our weather in the winter, the store shelves seems well stocked.

People who use studded tires assume they can drive faster than conditions allow, causing another set of safety issues.