

## FAQs on Buying Tyres

**How do I know which tyres to get for my vehicle?** Please refer to your owner's manual or alternatively contact the original manufacturer who will be able to advise you of the tyre type, size etc. most suitable for your vehicle.

**Do all four tyres have to be the same?** No, however under testing law a vehicle will fail if the two tyres on the one axle are not the same size or type (e.g. radial vs. cross-ply). For best performance, the same type of tyre should be fitted in all four wheel positions.

**Is it illegal to buy/use second hand tyres?** No. However the RSA does not recommend this for safety reasons. If purchasing second hand tyres it is very important to assess the tyre(s) overall condition and to be vigilant for tyre defects such as sidewall tear, bulges, exposed plies etc. Remember the tyres must have a thread depth of not less than 1.6mm. For more information on part-worn or second hand tyres please click [here](#).

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

**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 shouldn't fit such tyres. The RSA advises that, should you wish to install a set of snow tyres, you always install a full set of four to reduce the risks of over and under steer. Once the possibility of snow is gone for the season, you should remove your snow or winter tyres and reinstall your all-season or summer tyres.

**What about using 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 the Manufacturers recommendations.



**Are Mud & Snow (M+S) 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 (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.

**Can 'off-road tyres' be used on the road?** Some off-road tyres are marked with words such as "for 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 1.6mm tread depth they can be used on the road as normal.

**What is an e / 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 tyres in the EU must be E-marked, whether new or re-treaded.

**Is there a new law coming in for E marking on agricultural tyres in the EU?** The type approval of agricultural or forestry tractors, their trailers and interchangeable towed machinery, together with their systems, components and separate technical units falls under the remit of the [Department of Agriculture](#) who will be able to provide further information on this.



S-Mark

E-Mark

**Do all tyres have to carry an S-Mark?** Any tyre manufactured since 1 Oct 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.

**I'm buying imported alloys. What markings should I look out for?** There are no mandatory markings on alloys, they may meet with UNECE approval and therefore be e-marked but it is not legally required through EU legislation.

**Is there Type Approval on tyres?** Tyre production units or re-treading centres in any European Member State must be approved by the national type approval authority. Ireland's motor vehicle type approval authority is the [NSAI](#) so please contact them for more information on this.