

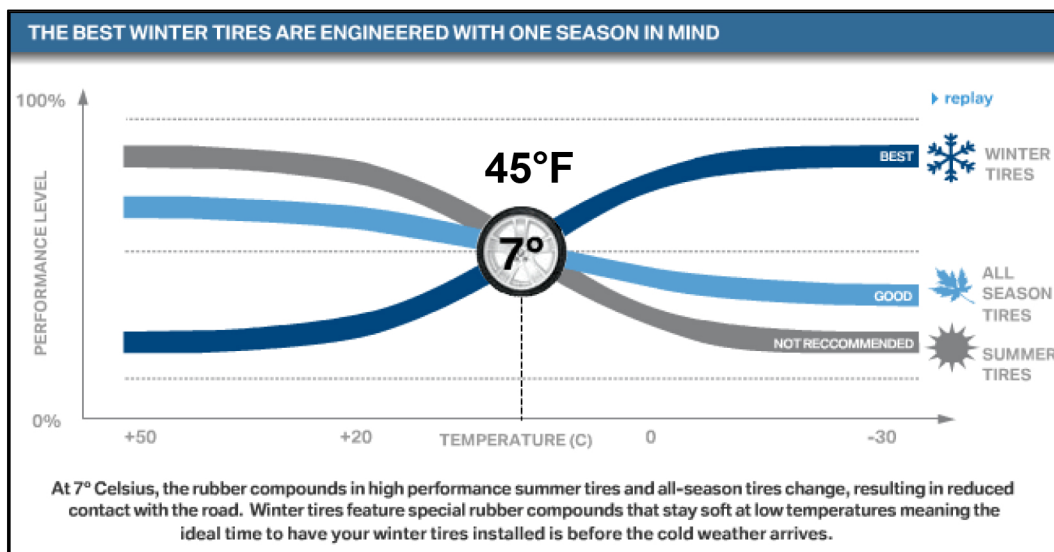
All-Season Tires vs. Winter/Snow Tires

“What is the difference between All-Season tires and Winter /Snow Tires?”

In order to prevent a common confusion in the market regarding the use of All-Season Tires under severe winter conditions, this bulletin will explain the differences between them and aims to assist the end-user to make a better decision regarding the proper tires. In a nut shell, while All-Season Tires are designed to perform well under a wide variety of operating conditions: dry and wet roads, hot and cold temperatures, and durability over long mileage, severe winter tires are much better suited for snow and icy conditions.

The charts below explains in details the key differences:

| All Season Tires | Winter/Snow Tires |
|--|--|
| Mud and Snow (M+S or M&S) designation on All-Season Tires is based on tread pattern . | Severe snow rating in winter tires is based on RMA and Tire Industry standards . |
| Designed to provide a quiet ride and good performance under most conditions. | Designed with larger grooves and tread blocks to grip the road better and prevent sliding in snowy, icy or slushy conditions . |
| Treads feature broad contact with road surface with channels to divert water. | Multiple razor-like " Sipes " in the tread provide strong grip and traction in ice and snow . |
| All-Season Tires start experiencing reduced traction at 7°C or 45°F . | Most Winter Tires maintain gripping power up to -35°C or -31°F . |
| Engineered with compounds to provide long wear on dry roads and good traction through most road conditions . | Engineered with compounds that maintain elasticity in lower temperatures for better traction. |



If you have any questions please contact us at techservice@us.giti.com

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How to choose?

It's important to understand the difference in snow traction between tires branded as **Mud and Snow (M&S, M+S)** and severe Winter Tires/Snow Tires



Note:

M+S Mud + Snow Symbol



**Winter / Snow
Tire Symbol**



All-Season Tires

The most popular tire on the road, built to handle "everyday" driving conditions. Tread design provides balanced dry and wet performance levels, as well as snow traction in light winter conditions. All-Season tires have longer tread life and are specifically designed for year round usage.



Winter/Snow Tires

These tires are specifically designed to offer optimal levels of traction on ice, snow, and slush in addition to dry and wet road surfaces in cold and extremely cold conditions. Winter tires are not intended for year round usage.

Background on Winter/Snow Tires

In 1999, The U.S Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) and the Rubber Association of Canada (RAC) agreed on a performance based standard for identifying tires that have been tested to perform better on snowy roads. **Severe Snow Tires** are specifically designed for severe snow conditions and meet snow traction performance requirements. Tires meeting this standard are marked with a pictograph of a peaked mountain called a 3 peak mountain snowflake symbol.

The mountain/snowflake symbol is the standard specified in Quebec for meeting driving requirements. Starting **December 15, 2014**, the Highway Safety Code regulation specifies **only tires bearing the mountain/snowflake symbol** will be considered acceptable **winter/snow tires in Quebec and used from December 15 to March 15.**

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