

Technical Bulletin – No. 5

UK & Ireland

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Tyre Definitions

Summer Tyres

Often referred to as “standard” tyres they are the most common fitment on cars throughout Europe. They are however designed to operate best in warmer temperatures experienced during typical summer months. (Typically April to October)

Winter Tyres (European)

Tyres that are designed to cope in low ambient temperatures on a wide variety of road conditions including dry, wet, snow and ice. The tyres carry a “Snow Flake on Mountain Peak” symbol on the sidewall. (Typically October to March)



Winter Tyres (Scandinavian)

Tyres that are designed for severe winter weather, very low temperatures and extensive snow and ice covered roads. They are often used in conjunction with “Studs”, “Snow Chains” etc. These tyres also carry the “Snow Flake” symbol. (Very rarely marketed in UK & Central Europe)

All Season Tyres

All season tyres are by design a compromise between “Summer” and “Winter” tyres. They offer higher grip levels during the warmer months than winter tyres and better grip than summer tyres in the winter. However they will not offer the same performance as Summer or Winter tyres in the seasons they are specifically designed for.

M+S marked Tyres

Tyres with the M+S marking on the sidewall typically have tread patterns that provide higher traction on soft ground surfaces (Mud / Snow) than standard summer tyre tread patterns. Unless additionally marked with the “Snow Flake” marking they are not classed as winter tyres and may not offer any improved performance on icy roads.



Cold Weather Tyres

The term “Cold Weather Tyre” is not an official tyre category. The term was adopted to indicate to motorists that European Winter tyres offer performance advantages in cold damp and wet conditions as well as on snow and ice covered roads