



**INSTA-CHAIN™**  
**The AUTOMATIC ICECHAIN**

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **What are the differences between the 6-strand and 12-strand chain wheels?**

Insta-Chain offers two models of automatic tire chains, the standard 6 strand model as well as 12 strand models. The 12-strand model provides twice the traction at minimum speed of only 3-3.5 mph. All 6-strand models require a minimum speed of 5-6mph.

- **Will INSTA-CHAIN work in Reverse?**

Yes! Insta-Chain uses a specially designed square straight-linked chain so your INSTA-CHAINS will work in forward as well as reverse. So you will have equal traction you need in either direction.

- **What if a chain strand breaks or wears out?**

The chain wheels are comprised of six patented, interlocking chain strand plates that allow you to replace each chain segment individually, if a strand happens to break or wear out. Therefore, you save money by not paying for an entire chain plate when only one strand needs to be replaced. In addition our chain is interchangeable between left and right side. Less for you to stock!

- **Why does Insta-Chain use 100% grease-able bearings on the chain wheel and arm?**

As any good mechanic will tell you, grease-able bearings have proved their superiority for years. The wheels and arms work in very harsh environments. Greasing 2-3 times annually keeps contaminants out of the bearings while maintaining lubricity greatly extending bearing life.

- **How long will the chains last?**

The chains will last much longer than any standard ladder chains because they are used only when needed on ice or snow. Chain wears out when it touches bare pavement. The Insta-Chains are engaged and disengaged as needed so as to prolong the life of the chain. Insta-Chain also uses a carbon manganese hardened alloy steel for maximum wear and durability.

- **Is INSTA-CHAIN DOT approved?**

Yes, INSTA-CHAIN is DOT accepted for use in ALL STATES with chain laws.

- **How fast can I go with the Insta-Chains?**

Like regular ladder chains, you should not exceed a speed of 30 mph while the INSTA-CHAINS are engaged. The Insta-Chains may be engaged between 5 and 25 mph, and can be disengaged at any time or speed. INSTA-CHAINS work best when engaged while moving, before slippage occurs. You can engage the chains from a standstill by spinning the wheels at least 5 mph and then engaging the INSTA-CHAINS.

- **How are they installed? Who can do it?**

INSTA-CHAIN's are mounted by attaching the chain unit to the U-bolts with a mounting bracket. In some cases the u-bolts may have to be replaced. The chain unit and wheels are then mounted to the bracket and final alignment is dialed in. Any mechanic can install these while taking care to ensure correct fastener torque is achieved.

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- What are the differences between Insta-Chain and other brands?**  
 Insta-Chain has designed several features into its system to make it the best automatic ice chain on the market. These *unique* features are: Individually replaceable chains-one at a time, the option for either 6, or 12 chains per wheel, grease-able wheel and arm bearings, a dust boot in the air cylinder housing, and coatings and plating's to reduce corrosion.
- Does Insta-Chain work in deep snow?**  
 The Insta-Chains are effective in snow up to 4-8" depending on snow density. If it is powdery snow then the chains can pass through it easier. If it is a wet slushy snow, the chain may become inhibited at deeper snow depths.
- What are the advantages to a Universal Mounting Bracket?**  
 The term universal bracket refers to several highly adjustable mounting brackets that permit installation on most spring and conventional airride suspensions. This permits volume dealers to have complete chain systems on-hand for rapid installation.
- Why are grease-able Chain Wheel and Arm Bearings important?**  
 The Insta-Chain wheel rides between 3 to 4" off the ground, in the salt, snow, slush, and road chemicals. In these environments, it is imperative that the bearings have the capability to be greased. This will drastically increase the life of your Insta-Chains and keep corrosives out.
- If I break one chain now, will I have to replace the others soon?**  
 Probably not - The chains typically all wear together. So, if you break one, the chances are that you will not have to replace another for some time.
- If I replace only one chain now, will it throw the Chain Wheel off balance?**  
 No! The Insta-Chain wheel works at a relatively low rpm. The amount of chain mass between a new and used chain link is relatively small. This difference will not throw off the functionality of the chains wheels. While there is technically an imbalance its effect is not significant.
- Why does the Insta-Chain unit have a Dust Boot?**  
 The Dust Boot protects the Air Cylinder from clogging up with dirt, rocks, pebbles, sand, and other road debris. It keeps the Air Cylinder moving freely.
- Can Insta-Chains fit on my vehicle?**  
 Most likely, yes. Insta-Chain fits the widest variety of vehicles and suspensions on the road.
- Will Insta-Chain parts fit on the competitors units?**  
 Yes. Many Insta-Chain parts are interchangeable with some competitor's chain units. Namely the Chain Wheels, Chain Links, and Air Cylinders, and a few other parts as well.

**If you have questions please call us at 888-452-4053**