

You've just bought tubeless compatible wheels.

Now, how do you tell if your new wheels have tubeless tape installed or non-tubeless tape installed? Simple. Tubeless tape appears thin and glossy. Our non-tubeless rim strip is matte, may have a woven look. **Warning:** Your local bike shop is well versed in setting up tubeless wheels/tires. If in doubt, please refer to them for help.

1. You don't have to go tubeless. You can use regular or tubeless tires and inner tubes. No problem.
2. Using Tubeless: You must correctly install tubeless rim tape. You must correctly install a tubeless valve. You must use tubeless specific tires.

***Note: Tires are tighter than they used to be and this is a good thing! Especially tubeless road tires—these need to be tight, but it can be difficult for some to mount these tires onto the wheels. Below are some helpful tips to get you going, including the installation of tires.*

Here are helpful tips

- a. Tubeless tape install: Firmly plant the tubeless tape. No bubbles in the tape. The end of the tape should have 3+ inches of overlap, and the end needs to be firmly sealed as well. The tape needs to be pressed firmly into the rim so it's sealing the spoke holes and seals up to the sides of the walls of the rim. Be sure to use the correct width of tape for your rim.
- b. Valve Install: Poke a small hole through the tape, smaller than the valve, now force the valve into the rim. Use your thumb and press firmly *while* at the same time tightening the presta nut onto the valve to firmly seat the valve. This should be hard enough to leave an imprint on your thumb. **IMPORTANT:** If your tubeless valves came with an o-ring for the presta nut, *do not use it*. You do not want to seal the rim cavity. Also: If you ever have sealant leaking out of the threads around the base of valve where the presta nut is, deflate your tire immediately, and go to your local bike shop for help.
- c. Drop-Channel: Use the drop channel! (see below diagram) When working the tire bead onto the rim, pinch the tire bead into the center of the rim, into the drop channel. This will give you the small amount of room you need to get the final bit of the tire bead into the rim.
- d. Tire Install/removal: Install: start opposite the valve and finish at the valve. Removal: start at the valve. The valve blocks the drop channel; you want it out of the way so you can use the drop channel as you install/remove.
- e. Tire Levers: If needed, use good tire levers, but not metal ones.
- f. Inflation: When you inflate your tires, you may hear some loud snaps or pops. This is normal. This is the bead of the tire seating onto the bead seat of the rim.
- g. Pressure loss: Initially, don't be surprised if you lose all the tire pressure over night. Air the tires back up and go for a ride. It'll take a real bike ride or two to get the sealant everywhere. Tubeless tires lose air faster than tubes. Even with good sealant, tires are still air-permeable. You'll want to check your tire pressure before each ride.

