



WINTER CAR MAINTENANCE

How much do you know about ABS?

Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS) have been called the greatest safety innovation since the seatbelt. There are more and more cars on the market with ABS as an option or even as a standard feature.

But there are many who don't understand how the system works or what it can

and cannot do for a driver in bad weather.

Here's a quick quiz from Car Care Canada to see if you understand ABS:

1. Even with ABS, on a slippery road I should pump the brakes for maximum stopping power.

True False

2. The main advantage of

ABS is that it allows me to retain steering control while applying maximum braking.

True False

3. When I press down on the pedal on a slippery day, I feel the pedal press back against my foot and I hear a humming noise. This means the brakes are failing.

True False

4. The ABS warning light comes on. This means I have a total brake failure and I must not drive the car.

True False
Answers

1. False. The ABS system will pump only the brake or brakes on wheels that are slipping. The other brakes remain fully applied, so you'll stop faster. The ABS system can pump the brakes that need to be pumped many times a second.

2. True. Because your wheels never lock up, you retain steering control. This gives you the option of steering around an obstruction or stopping before you hit it.

3. False. This is normal, and tells you that the ABS system is working. Use a firm steady pressure on the brake pedal.

4. False. The ABS warning light means an ABS system problem — your brakes will work normally, unless the brake warning light is also on. However, you no longer have ABS, so get that system checked as soon as possible.

How to keep your car 'green'

Today's car is about 130% more energy efficient than the cars of 25 years ago. If it uses less energy, it creates fewer emissions. Even the fuel we use is different all automotive gasoline is now unleaded. Most of the new car you buy today is either made from recycled materials or is recyclable.

By keeping up with routine preventive maintenance, especially filter replacement and regular oil changes, drivers will keep their cars operating in the low emissions zone. They'll also save money in the long term on repairs and on fuel.

Here are some green driving tips:

- Plan your errands to avoid making a lot of short trips. Cars are at their least fuel efficient when cold.

- Slow down. The difference between driving at 100 km/h and 110 km/h is about

10 per cent.

- Don't idle. If you're just stepping into a store for a moment, switch off your engine. You'll save fuel, reduce pollution, and be less likely to have your car stolen.

- Keep your tires fully inflated. Soft tires increase rolling resistance, which is the biggest contributor to fuel consumption at city driving speeds.

- Smooth driving. Avoid sharp stops and starts in city traffic, and try to maintain a steady speed on the highway. Use your cruise control, if you have it. Look well ahead to anticipate blips in the traffic, so you can be in the free flowing lane.

A lot has been done to make cars more environmentally friendly and fuel efficient. It's up to drivers to keep them that way.

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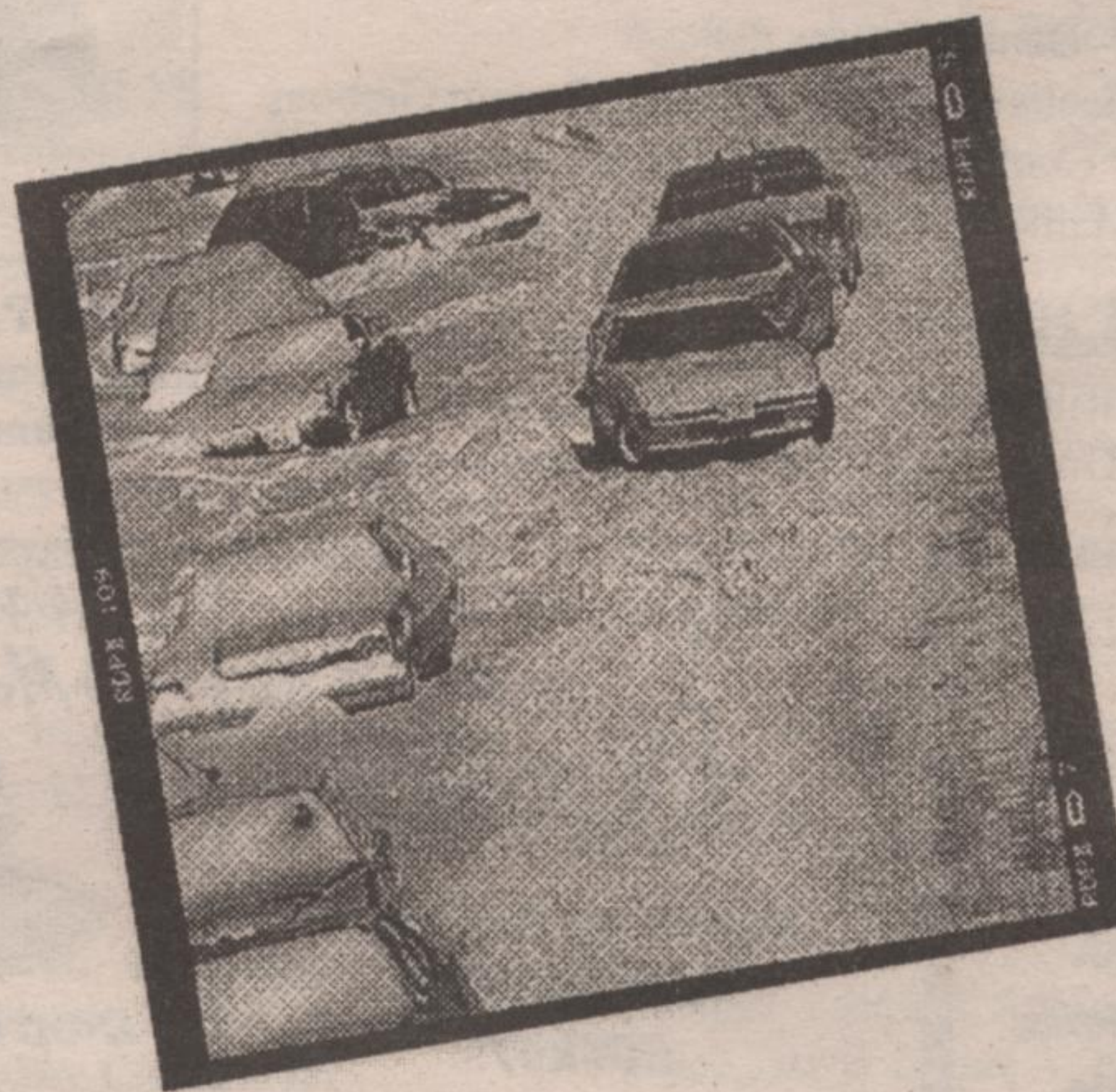
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Mel Edwards
R.R. #4, Acton
(519) 853-1370 • Fax 853-1370