

# Can Your Vehicle Take Winter By Storm?

## What do you do if your car suddenly goes into a skid?

The rear wheels of a front-wheel-drive car often start to skid if you lift your foot off the gas pedal on an icy corner, shifting weight off the rear tires.

If it happens - don't hit the brakes, which is often our automatic response.

Instead, quickly ease off the gas and steer in the direction the rear wheels are sliding.

If you've got a manual transmission, depress the clutch. Shift into neutral on an automatic. These actions remove the affects of engine braking.

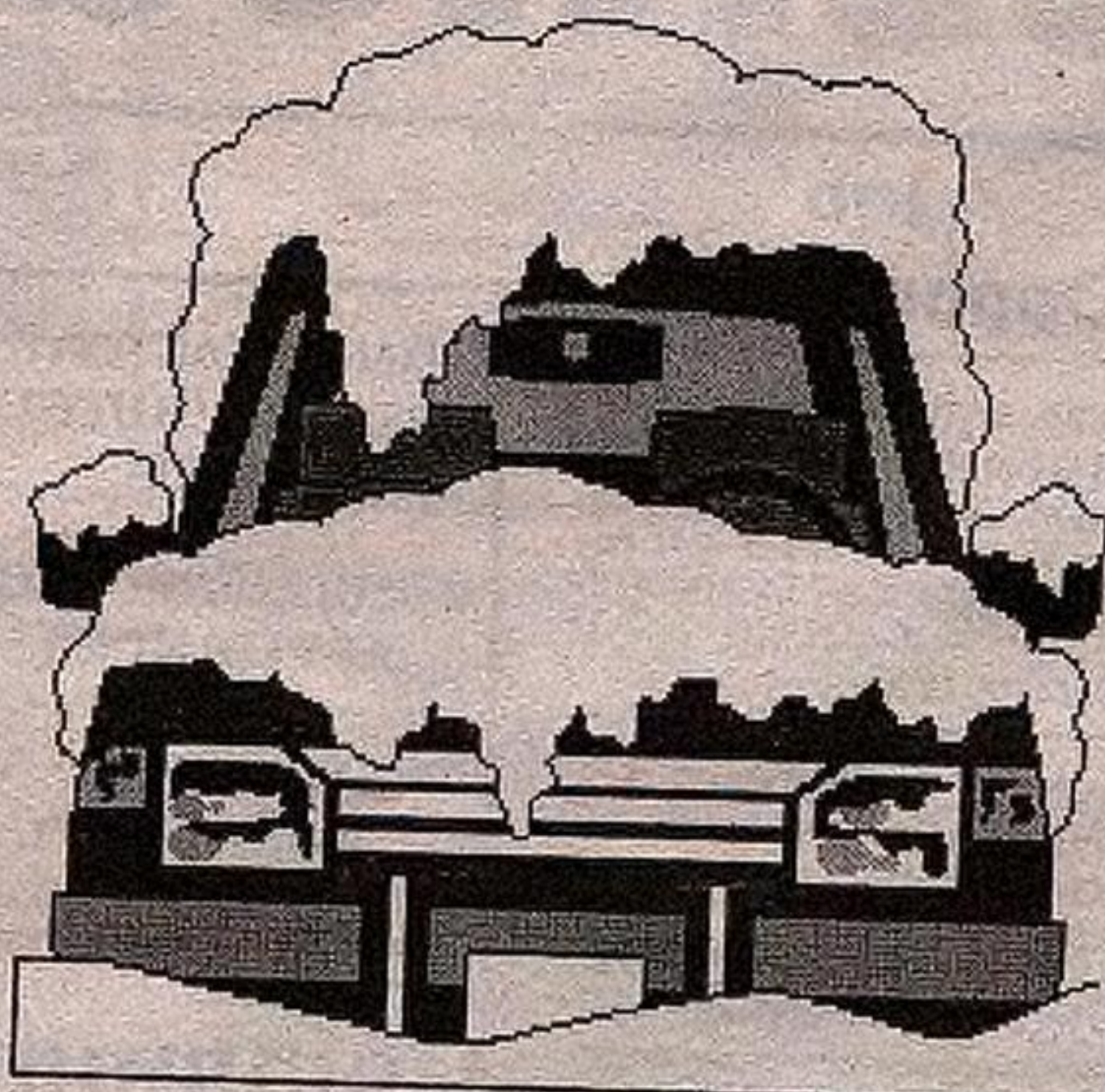
When the skid ends, straighten out your front wheels.

You do the same in a rear

wheel drive car but once the skid has been corrected it's likely the tail of the car will swing out in the opposite direction. Try not to over-correct. Once you feel the car coming back under control start easing the wheel back straight.

Since they are usually unexpected, front-wheel skids are often the most heart-stopping. It occurs when you enter a corner too fast and turned the wheel too abruptly or brake so hard you lose traction on the front tires.

If your car's front end starts to slide, don't hit the brakes. Hold the steering wheel where it is, lift off the gas pedal gently and depress the clutch, or shift the automatic into neutral.



## Smooth driving, breaking essential on greasy roads

Driving on slippery roads? Then how you use the brakes may be the difference between a trip into a nearby ditch - or much worse.

Gentle braking and smooth steering are essential on icy roads. Many drivers brake too abruptly on greasy roads and if you haven't got anti-lock brakes it can lock the wheels and send the vehicle into a skid.

Far better to do everything smoothly including acceleration, steering and braking.

Unless you can't help it never hit the brakes suddenly. If you feel the wheels lock, ease up on brake pressure. No one can steer when the wheels are locked.

Those vehicles with anti-lock brakes sense electronically when a wheel is about to lock up, and automatically ease up on brake pressure. The system will do the rest and allow you to steer.

Stopping distances with anti-lock brakes don't change. In some cases they are longer than with regular brakes.

## Car won't start? Prepare for problems

Car won't start these frosty mornings? Maybe you need a new battery. If not, maybe an old blanket covering the engine will do the trick of keeping it warm enough to start. But don't forget to remove it before you start your car.

Another tip; if you haven't got a block heater then a flood lamp under the oil pan provides an alternative.

Frozen lock? Why not carry some lock de-icer in your pocket or in the glove compartment of your car? Squeeze a little into each lock every once in a while as a preventive measure. Some WD40 squirted into locks every once in a while also helps keep them easy to open. Also apply some to dry out electrical connections, the hood release and the gas cap.



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