



# anti-lock braking systems (ABS)

When used correctly, ABS adds an important measure of safety to driving, under all conditions. ABS lets you maintain vehicle stability and directional control, and may reduce stopping distances during hard braking — particularly on wet and icy roads. But to work properly, you have to allow your ABS to do its job. So it's important to understand how ABS works.

When you start your vehicle, an ABS indicator light will illuminate briefly on the instrument panel.

- If your ABS system is not functioning properly, the ABS light on the instrument panel will stay illuminated. You should still have a basic brake system, but take your vehicle directly to a dealership for repair.
- The ABS light will also stay on if your brake fluid level is low.
- Check your vehicle owner's manual for more information.

## How ABS work

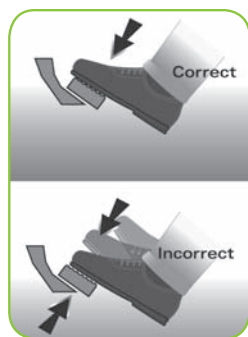
During hard braking, the ABS computer-controlled sensors electronically engage and release the brakes several times a second (which is faster than humanly possible). By engaging and releasing the brakes, the ABS prevents wheel lock-up and out-of-control skids.

## The advantage of ABS

In braking situations where the wheels on a non-ABS equipped vehicle would lock up, ABS will generally provide shorter controlled stopping distance. On some surfaces such as gravel or a skim of snow, ABS braking distance can be longer, but drivers retain the ABS advantage: steering control.

## Applying ABS

- Apply **FIRM, HARD, CONTINUOUS** pressure to the **brake pedal** until the vehicle stops.
- Remember, during hard braking, ABS allows you to **STEER AROUND OBSTACLES**.
- **DO NOT PUMP THE BRAKES.** This turns the system on and off.
- **Do not be alarmed by brake noise** or pedal movement or shudder. This is normal.



## Practising ABS stops

- If you purchase, borrow or rent a vehicle that has ABS, practise one or two emergency stops.
- Select a safe off-road location. Accelerate to 30 km/h, brake hard, and consciously steer around an imaginary object while braking.

## Tips

- ABS will still work with your spare tire, but usually not as well, especially if your spare is a smaller tire.
- Use of different sized tires other than those recommended by the vehicle manufacturer may reduce ABS performance — check your vehicle owner's manual before you change your tires.
- ABS does not allow you to stop on a dime.
- In emergency braking with ABS, put the brake pedal down hard and don't let up. Remember to steer around any obstacles.
- Don't lose sight of the fact that brake shoes, pads, rotors and drums are still involved in stopping your vehicle. These mechanical components must be serviced on a regular basis. Vehicle condition is important, including properly inflated tires that have good tread.
- At 100 km/h, your vehicle travels 27 metres each second. Reaction time, that is the time it takes a driver to identify a braking situation and then apply the brakes, will affect the overall distance to stop. A one-half second reaction time will result in a vehicle stopping 27 metres shorter from 100 km/h than a one-and-one-half second reaction time. That is why it is important to always pay attention to the road and other traffic.
- For more information on vehicle safety, check out [icbc.com](http://icbc.com) or Transport Canada's website at [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca).



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