

ANTI-LOCK BRAKING SYSTEM (ABS)

ABS helps drivers maintain steering control of their vehicle by preventing the wheels from locking up when the driver brakes hard.

Wheel lock occurs when the brakes are pressed so hard that the wheels stop rotating. Drivers no longer have steering control of the vehicle once the wheels lock, and the vehicle is likely to skid as a result.

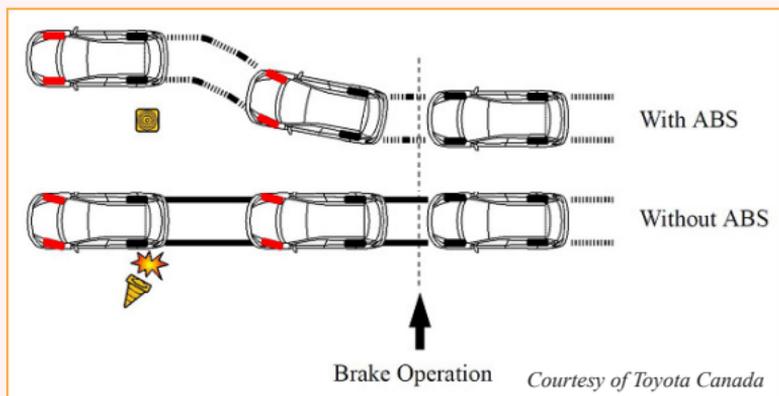
A common misconception about ABS is that it is designed to help vehicles stop sooner and make braking more effective. This is not necessarily true: the primary purpose of ABS is to help drivers steer to avoid a danger on the roadway. Sometimes vehicles may stop sooner as a result of ABS, but this is not always the case. For example, on snowy or loosely packed gravel roads, ABS may actually increase the distance required to stop.

HOW DOES ABS WORK?

ABS works by monitoring the rotational speed of the wheels to detect when a wheel suddenly slows down in its speed of rotation. This is a sign that the wheel is about to lock (i.e., stop spinning).

ABS prevents wheels from locking by apply and releasing the brake in rapid succession. This is similar to pumping or feathering the brakes in vehicles without ABS. However, ABS is able to detect the threat of wheel lock and pump or feather the brakes faster and more effectively than most drivers can.

Your brain is your vehicle's most important safety feature.



DOES IT INTERFERE WITH MY DRIVING?

ABS does not interfere with driving; but it is important to remember a few facts about ABS to gain the most benefit from this safety feature:

- ABS makes a distinctive grinding sound when it starts to work, and some drivers may feel the brake pedal moving slightly underfoot. This is normal.
- When ABS starts working, drivers should remember to remain calm, keep firm, consistent pressure on the brake pedal, and focus on steering the vehicle onto a safe path.

Learn more about the safety benefits of ABS and when it is most helpful by visiting www.brainonboard.ca.

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