4-WHEEL ANTI-LOCK BRAKING SYSTEM
BRAKES THAT HELP YOU STEER

You travel 88’ in one second when driving 60 mph – that’s more than one football field in four seconds

What should you do?

Hold brake pressure

Steer to safety

How does it work?

1. ABS sensors at each wheel detect impending skid
2. ABS controller reacts to prevent wheel lock-up
3. Brake fluid pressure changes to each wheel
4. ABS pumps brake fluid to steer
   car back on steered path

4-wheel ABS can stop quicker on dry and wet roads

Should brake well

Dry or wet pavement
Ice, black ice or snow
Dirt or packed gravel

May not brake well...

Or at all

Loose gravel or sand
Lightly packed snow

ABS is speed-sensitive
And may only activate above 10 mph

If in lightly packed snow, loose gravel or sand, ABS may INCREASE stopping distance by 25% or more – but will still help you steer to safety

Does your vehicle have ABS?

Read your vehicle’s owners manual, or ask a service technician or rental car agent if unsure. ABS has been common for decades and all new U.S. cars and minivans made in 2012 and after must have 4-wheel ABS

Look for this light when you start your vehicle.

Pump the brake if your vehicle isn’t equipped with ABS or your ABS fails

If you feel the brakes thumping, your ABS is working. That’s when you steer to safety.

For more information about your safety systems, check your owner’s manual or visit MyCarDoesWhat.org

Know More. Drive Safer.

The University of Iowa