

## Tough brake

"The anti-lock braking system is one of the most important advances in car safety since the steering wheel," says Paul Hubbard, certified driving school instructor. Unfortunately, Hubbard adds, "most drivers have never been shown how to use the system."

When used correctly, the anti-lock braking system can be very effective on icy and wet roads or in any condition. A sensor monitors each wheel and engages the ABS system when the wheel locks or skids. When that happens, the system momentarily releases the brake pressure on that wheel, allows the wheel to turn and take hold, then allows the brake to activate again.

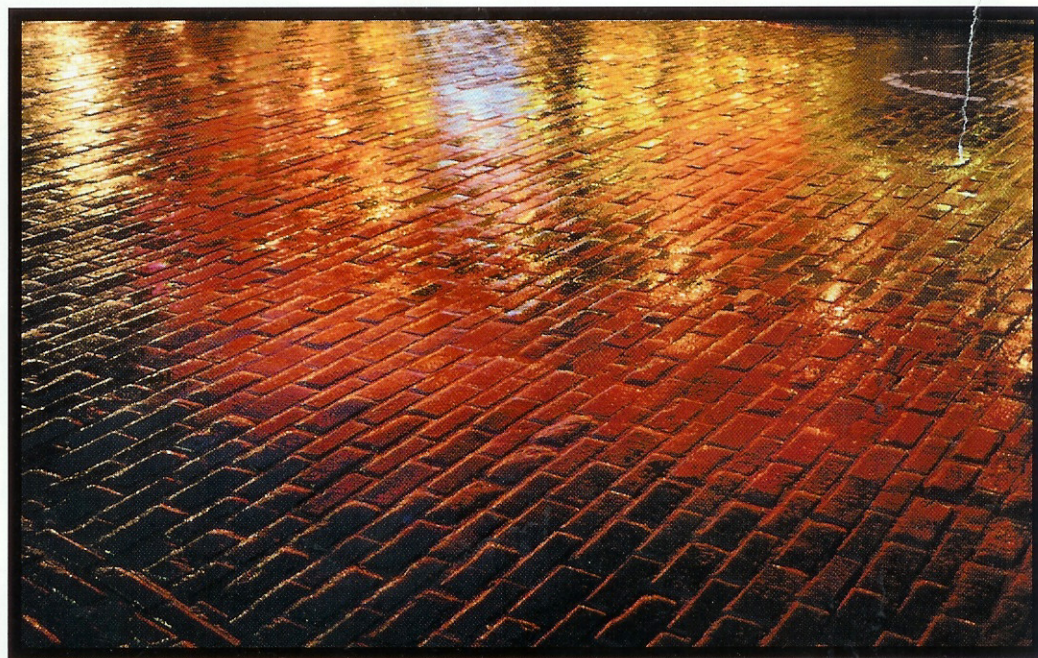
### ON THE SKIDS

Traditional advice has taught drivers to steer "into a skid," which can be confusing, says Bud Chauncy, driving school owner and president of the Driving School Association of Louisiana. Instead, Chauncy teaches his students the Keep It Simple method of skid recovery.

If your car begins to skid because of wet or icy conditions, Chauncy advises:

- > Let off the gas.
- > Don't brake.
- > Look and steer in the direction you want to go.
- > Be prepared to counter-steer after making the initial steering corrections.

Although basically the same as traditional skid advice, the KIS method may be easier to remember in an emergency.



If the wheels lock and the car goes into a skid, the driver loses the ability to steer the vehicle. Often, the car will continue in the direction it was traveling when the skid began. Since ABS brakes don't allow the wheels to lock, the driver has the ability to effectively steer through a braking maneuver. It's important to remember that ABS systems were not designed to shorten the distance it typically takes to stop your vehicle.

How do you activate ABS brakes? Simple — just push the brake pedal to the floor and hold it there. You will feel some vibration against your foot but don't let up. That vibration means the system is working.