



TOP SHOP *Talk*

Top Shop Automotive Newsletter

Winter 2017

Welcome to Our Winter Newsletter!

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday, and many long, relaxing days spent with family and friends. The upcoming months are our rainy season here in California, and while we hope for lots of storms and showers to ease the statewide drought, heavy rain can make driving treacherous. In this newsletter, we'll share some tips for driving in the rain, as well as a few fun New Year traditions to ring in 2017. Also, check out our New Year's resolution, and a seasonal recipe that's perfect when you're craving some winter comfort food.

Tips for Driving in a Downpour (or anytime it's raining)

People think we have it easy in California, with our mild winters and reputation for year-round sunshine. Well, these people haven't seen a mudslide covering a windy mountain road during a torrential downpour in Santa Barbara County! Wet weather presents some of the most difficult driving conditions one can encounter, and it's important to be prepared when the clouds burst. Here are some suggestions for safe driving in rainy winter weather conditions.

Before you set out... Driving in any amount of rain demands gentle use of all main vehicle controls, including steering, clutch, brakes, and accelerator, in addition to a larger allowance for errors and emergencies. When you set out in the rain, your shoes will be wet and could slip off the pedals. Scuff your shoes on the rubber mat or carpeting of the car before you start the engine. Also, check to make sure your headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals are working properly.

Thanks for checking in with Top Shop Talk, our seasonal newsletter! If you've read our newsletter before, you're probably noticing our new streamlined look—We hope you like it!



Be Safe When Driving In The Rain

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Staying Focused During A Rainy Season

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How are your tires? Check your tires on a regular basis. Bald tires significantly reduce your traction on wet roadways, and offer little resistance to hydroplaning.

Use your wipers wisely. Replace your wipers at least once a year, as wiper blades in bad condition don't clear water very well and distort your view. Wipers will often clear light rain with a few sweeps, and then run on an almost dry windshield, leaving smears of drying dirt. Don't hesitate to use the windshield washers liberally: the fluid is cheap and the safety benefit is high. In fact, carry extra washer fluid during the winter.

Don't forget to turn on your headlights. Plain and simple: headlights are a good way to let other drivers know where you are, and it's the law in California when it's raining.

Get control of foggy windows. Rain and high humidity can quickly cause windows to mist up inside the car. In a vehicle equipped with air conditioning, turn up the heat and direct the airflow to your defrosters with the A/C switch engaged. In a car without A/C, the procedure is the same, but you may need to open your side windows to get the air moving.

Driving in heavy rain... Heavy rain can overload your wiper blades, causing an almost continuous sheet of water to flow over your windshield. When visibility is so limited that the edges of the road or other vehicles cannot be seen at a safe distance, it's time to pull over and wait for the rain to ease up.

Handle a skid. Losing control of your vehicle on wet pavement is a scary experience. You can prevent skids by driving slowly and carefully, especially around curves. If you do find yourself in a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. This procedure, known as "steering into the skid," will bring the back end of your car in line with the front.

Watch out for oil deposits. Rain is most dangerous when it falls after a long dry spell on to roads that have become polished and smooth. That's because the rain blends with oil and rubber-dust deposits on the road, creating a highly dangerous skid mixture. So be extra-careful immediately after it starts raining, as it takes a while for the worst of the dirt and oil to get washed off the road.

Driving on the freeway... When driving on the freeway, leave lots of space between you and the car in front because it takes longer to stop on a wet road. If you must hit the brakes hard, your tires will lock up, and you may hydroplane (possibly hitting the car in front of you). If available, drive in the fast lane, where there are fewer cars and less oil deposits on the road. Also, because of the built-in slope of most roads, water drains towards the slower lanes. Avoid lane changes, too, as water tends to build up between the tire ruts in the lanes.

Avoid driving through water. If water has flooded onto the road, drive very slowly and cautiously. It's best to stop your car before entering the flooded area to check the water level ahead. Generally, if the water is deeper than the bottom of your doors or the bottom-third of your wheels, do not attempt to drive through it. And never drive through moving water if you can't see the ground through the water.

*And you thought your
New Year's Eve was
crazy ?!*

Whether your New Year's Eve was a swanky cocktail affair, a Netflix binge with popcorn and PJs, or a wild night you hope won't live on in infamy on your friends' Facebook pages, you'd be hard pressed to beat these unique New Year's rituals. From fortune-telling fowl to gobbling grapes, here are some of the wackiest ways of welcoming the New Year around the world.

Philippines: Wearing polka dots and eating round fruits supposedly rings in a prosperous coming year.

Spain & Mexico: If you find yourself in Spain or Mexico (or wishing you were), wolf down handfuls of grapes at the stroke of midnight. (Again with the round fruits!)

South Africa: Look out for falling... appliances! The tradition in Johannesburg is to toss out old household appliances at midnight.

Denmark: More flying kitchenware in Denmark. Danes welcome the New Year by chucking old china and glassware at the doors of friends and family. Yikes! Watch where you step on New Year's Day.

Belarus: This one's for all the single ladies out there. Unmarried women in Belarus play a game to see who will marry in the coming year. A pile of corn is placed in front of each woman and a rooster is released – whichever pile he approaches first indicates the woman who will marry!



Celebrating A New Year

Our New Year's Resolution at Top Shop Automotive

Hello Readers!

Well, it's the beginning of 2017. What New Year's resolutions have you set for yourselves (if any!)? Are you going to try to stick to them? At Top Shop Automotive, we're excited about our New Year's resolution this year. And the best part about it? It benefits you the most! Our New Year's resolution is to be the best auto repair shop we can be by providing you with the best customer service and giving you the biggest value for your money.

We know getting your vehicle repaired is not always something you enjoy or look forward to, but our goal is to make it the least painful experience you will have with auto repair. If you have suggestions about how we could make your auto repair experience better, we would love to hear them. Please feel free to call us or email anytime!

See you soon!

The Top Shop Team

Winter Recipe

Super-Simple Crockpot White Chicken Chili

This is the easiest white chicken chili slow-cooker recipe you'll ever try! Dump, dump, dump, cook for four hours (maybe stirring once or twice in the middle), and you're rewarded for your minimal effort with a great chili! Don't be surprised if friends ask for the recipe. It's up to you whether you want to reveal how simple it is!

Ingredients:

- 1 48-ounce jar of great northern beans (undrained)
- 3 cups shredded chicken
- 1 cup medium salsa
- 8 ounces of pepper jack cheese, cubed
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 1 14-ounce can of chicken broth (optional)

Directions:

1. Cube 8 ounces of pepper jack cheese.
2. In a small crockpot, combine great northern beans, salsa, shredded chicken, cumin, and pepper jack cheese.
3. Add chicken broth for a normal-thick chili. Leave it out for extra-thick chili. Stir very well.
4. Cook on low for 4 hours. Try to stir once or twice in the middle to distribute the cheese, but it can wait until the end if you don't want to bother.

Let us know if you'd like to contribute a recipe to Top Shop Talk!

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products!

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