



Automotive Solutions: 25 Years in 2025!

It's hard to believe we're already in 2025, but the Automotive Solutions Group is thrilled to wish you a happy and prosperous year! This year marks a significant milestone—our 25th anniversary! We're incredibly proud to have grown into a network of 64 independent repair centres spread across New Zealand. Our team of highly qualified and experienced technicians are committed to delivering exceptional service, expert advice, and peace of mind.

Whether you're in the North or South, Automotive Solutions have you covered, ensuring that no matter where you are in New Zealand, your automotive needs are taken care of with professionalism and care.

Here's to another 25 years of excellence! For trusted automotive care, call 0800 791 791 or visit automotivesolutions.co.nz.

WOF

REPAIRS

SERVICES

MAINTENANCE

ALL MAKES AND MODELS



CARTHTRITIS?

Does your suspension need surgery?

Just like the human body, a vehicle's joints can experience wear and tear as time goes by. For the human skeleton (our chassis), osteoarthritis occurs when cartilage wears down, leading to a 'bone against bone' joint. This condition reduces mobility, causes significant pain, and negatively impacts the surrounding areas of the body.

In vehicles, bushings within the chassis and suspension act much like the 'cartilage' in human joints. These components are designed to reduce friction, absorb shocks, and ensure smooth movement. Over time, however, bushings can degrade due to age, usage, or environmental factors. This wear and tear, humorously referred to as 'carthritis', can compromise your vehicle's performance, reliability, and safety.

Failing to address worn suspension or chassis components can lead to a variety of issues. Here are some common symptoms of 'carthritis' that drivers should watch for:

Unusual vehicle noises: Knocking, clunks, or vibrations during acceleration, braking, or cornering.

Irregular steering behavior: Symptoms include vague steering, vibrations, an off-centre steering wheel, failure to self-centre, or poor responsiveness.

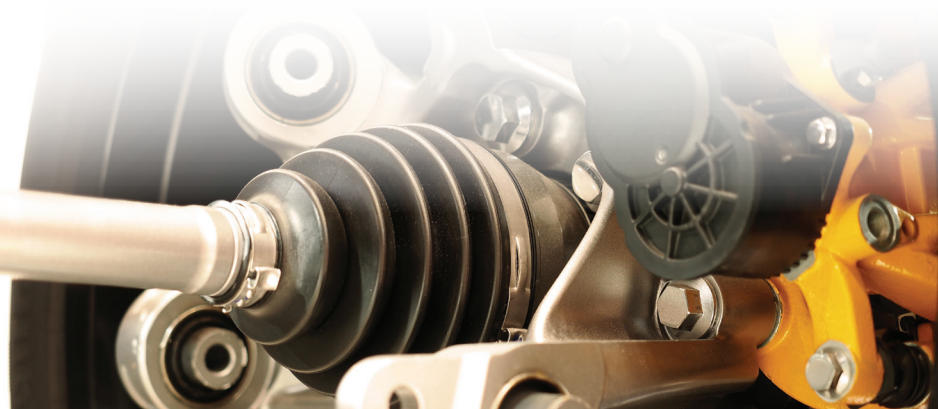
Inefficient braking: A soft brake pedal, darting to one side when braking, or shuddering during braking.

Unpredictable stability: Signs include excess body roll during cornering, understeer (lack of front wheel grip in front/all-wheel-drive vehicles), or oversteer (lack of rear-end grip in rear-wheel-drive vehicles).

Premature tyre wear: Smooth inner edges caused by excess negative camber or feathered edges from incorrect toe settings.

Addressing these issues promptly is essential to maintain your vehicle's performance and ensure your safety on the road. Regular inspections and timely repairs can help prevent 'carthritis' from becoming a major problem.

Book a service today to keep your vehicle running smoothly and to avoid the pains of 'carthritis'—your car will thank you!



AUTUMN ROAD SAFETY: PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE AND DRIVING SMART

Autumn brings beautiful scenery, but it also poses unique driving challenges. As the days shorten and the weather becomes unpredictable, it's vital to prepare your vehicle and adjust your driving habits for the season.

Prepare your vehicle:

Tyres: Ensure your tyre tread depth and pressure are adequate for wet and slippery roads. Worn tyres reduce grip, increasing the risk of accidents.

Wipers and lights: Rain, mist, and early darkness demand clear visibility. Replace worn wiper blades, clean your windshield, and check headlights, taillights, and indicators.

Fluids and battery: Top up antifreeze, washer fluid, and oil, and have your battery tested to avoid cold-weather breakdowns.

Know the hazards:

Slippery roads: Wet leaves, rain mixing with road grime, and frost can create slick surfaces. Drive slowly, especially through curves and intersections.

Low visibility: Shorter days and foggy mornings can reduce visibility. Use dipped headlights and keep your windshield clear to minimise glare.

Sun glare: The low autumn sun can blind drivers. Keep sunglasses handy and clean your windshield to avoid streaks that worsen glare.

Children near schools: Kids are often less aware when first returning to school. Watch carefully near school buses and crossings.

By taking these precautions, you'll be ready for autumn's challenges. Book a seasonal vehicle check with your Automotive Solutions member to ensure your car is safe and reliable for every journey.

DRIVING SAFELY AFTER THE FIRST RAINS

When rain falls after a dry spell, roads become particularly slippery. The rain mixes with built-up oil, bitumen, and rubber, creating a slick surface often called "summer ice." This greasy layer increases the risk of skidding and lengthens braking distances, making driving more hazardous.

During dry weather, grime accumulates on roads instead of being washed away by rain. When the first rain comes, this residue mixes with water to form a slippery film. With autumn's mix of dry and wet weather, it's crucial to adjust your driving habits to these conditions.

Tips for driving after the first rains:

- **Reduce speed:** Wet roads lower traction, so slowing down helps maintain control and reduces skidding risks.
 - **Keep your distance:** Leave more space between you and the car ahead, giving yourself more time to react. Avoid sudden braking.
 - **Drive smoothly:** Avoid harsh braking or rapid acceleration. If your car skids, ease off the accelerator and steer gently in the skid's direction.
 - **Check your tyres:** Ensure your tyres have sufficient tread and proper air pressure for better grip and safety.
 - **Watch for standing water:** Driving too fast through puddles can cause aquaplaning, where your tyres lose contact with the road, reducing steering control.
 - **Improve visibility:** Heavy rain can limit sight. Use dipped headlights so other drivers can see you.
- By driving cautiously and maintaining your vehicle, you can stay safe on the roads after the first rains.

AUTUMN JOKES

How do leaves get from place to place?
Autumn-mobiles.

What do you call a small pepper in late autumn? *A little chilli.*

Why do birds fly south for the autumn?
Because it's quicker than walking.

What happens when winter arrives?
Autumn leaves.

What did the ground say when autumn came? *"Well, that's a re-leaf."*

Why are trees so carefree and easygoing? *Because every autumn, they let loose.*

How do trees get on the internet?
They log on.

What can a whole apple do that half an apple can't do? *It can look round.*

BEACON'S

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