



Autumn
& Winter

AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS - a community of members supporting each other to be the best they can be.

What began in the late nineties as a small group of automotive repair centres has expanded to a community of 64 members nationwide. Together we provide a united network of experienced repairers spread throughout the country giving you the reassurance that wherever you are in New Zealand your automotive issues will be taken care of professionally, efficiently, and reliably.

Whether you are setting out to ski the Remarkables, travelling for business to one of our city centres, on a road trip through the central North Island, or dropping the kids off at school, the Automotive Solutions community is right there to assist you.

Call 0800 791 791 or visit our website automotivesolutions.co.nz to find a trusted Automotive Solutions repairer near you.

DRIVING IN HEAVY RAIN OR FLOODWATER

With the recent flooding throughout New Zealand it is a timely reminder that flooding can happen at any time of the year.

The key advice for motorists is to avoid travel in situations where you could encounter flooding or other road hazards unless it is absolutely essential. Always follow the advice of Civil Defence and emergency services and check for road closures before you head off. You could also run into insurance complexities, so it's best to check your (or your company's) vehicle usage policies before setting out.

If you have to drive when there's been heavy rain and flooding, make sure your vehicle is capable of the task. If you have an SUV, Ute or vehicle with raised suspension you could be able to pass through water that is deeper than a standard car will pass through. The standard

car sill height can be around the 15-20cm mark and water could be nearer your doors as it rises. In water 30cm deep, most cars would start to float or feel a bit light, and double the depth could be in danger of being swept away in flowing waters.

It is recommended not to exceed 5km per hour when driving through water as to not overtake the bow wave generated at the front of the vehicle. If a vehicle is coming in the other direction, let it past first so that your two bow waves don't meet. If you're following another vehicle, wait for it to clear the flood, because if it becomes stranded you don't want to be trapped behind it as you could run into trouble if you lose momentum.

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If a vehicle drives through shallow flood waters, then it usually will dry out by itself after a few kilometres of driving. The brakes will dry off with heat, so the driver would need to lightly apply them after exiting the water to ensure they will operate safely next time they are applied.

If the pressure wave in the front of the vehicle was near bonnet level, Automotive Solutions recommends that you have your air filter checked by your vehicle service provider, as this is usually where the engine air intake is.

Driving into deep water at speed is like driving into a wall. The resistance of the water will slow your vehicle down very quickly. Water can enter under the bonnet and could be forced into the engine, causing damage. *An egg cup full of water can destroy an engine.*

If you find your vehicle has been caught in floodwaters even if water hasn't seeped inside the vehicle, it is not recommended the vehicle be driven.

Contact your insurance company and seek advice. The vehicle will need to be sent to your local Automotive Solutions member to have all the driveline components checked and may require transmission and differential fluids replaced.

In some instances, even the CV joints in the axles of some vehicles may need to have the grease replaced as water may have seeped in through any cracks/holes in the rubber boots or ventilation valves. The brakes may have trapped mud or silt and require a thorough check and clean to ensure they work safely.

In the unfortunate event a vehicle is trapped in flood waters and has water inside, do not attempt to power up the system or start the vehicle as water could be inside the engine and electrical systems. We recommend calling your insurance company and follow their recommendations.

There is a high chance of a submerged vehicle being written off as the electrics, safety systems, engine and drive train would be full of water and may not recover even if dried out. The cost of replacing all the electrical and safety systems alone could cost more than the value of the vehicle.



Check Waka Kotahi NZTA's website for road closures
www.nzta.govt.nz/searchresults?term=road+closures



AUTUMN RECIPE

Roasted Pumpkin Risotto



Recipe from www.nzherald.co.nz

Ingredients

- 50g butter
- 1.5L vegetable stock (or chicken stock)
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion (finely diced)
- 4 cloves garlic (crushed)
- 2 tsp fresh rosemary (plus extra)
- 1.5 cups risotto rice (main)
- 500g pumpkin (diced)
- 1 cup white wine
- Salt & freshly ground pepper (to season)
- 1/4 cup mascarpone
- 30g parmesan cheese

Instructions

1. Put the stock into a saucepan and keep at a gentle simmer. Heat a large pan.
2. Add the butter and oil then the onion and garlic. Stir for 5 minutes or until softened, but not coloured.
3. Add 2 tsp finely chopped fresh rosemary, stir then add the rice. Stir to coat with the butter and oil then continue to toast the rice for a few minutes, but not browning.
4. Add the pumpkin and stir, then after 5 minutes add the wine.
5. Add the stock a ladle at a time, stirring and scraping the bottom of the pan as you go. When each ladle has almost evaporated, add the next.
6. Continue cooking for about 20 minutes, the risotto will be cooked when the grains are soft but al dente.
7. Season and add the grated parmesan before serving with a spoonful of mascarpone and a little extra rosemary.

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 **TAUPO AUTOMOTIVE**
REPAIRS AND SERVICING

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