

Tips And Tricks To Avoid Hydroplaning? Slow Down

BY TOM AND RAY
MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
We recently bought a 2005 VW Beetle and love it. Our one concern is its tendency to hydroplane in the rain. Is there any way to install an aftermarket stability control? In 2005, the electronic stability control was not a feature on the Beetle. If not, what can we do to help reduce the tendency to hydroplane, in addition to slowing down? Thanks, guys.
— Ted

RAY: Slow down some more.

TOM: There's no way to install an aftermarket stability control system, that we know of. Nor would it prevent hydroplaning. But there are several things you can try, Ted.

RAY: Hydroplaning occurs when so much water collects in front of your tires that it creates a wedge of water, and your tires ride up on the wedge of water and temporarily leave the road.

TOM: It's most likely to happen when you drive into a large puddle

at a fairly high speed. And, as I'm sure you can attest, Ted, it causes a loss of control. Not only of the car, but sometimes of your bodily functions. It's scary!

RAY: Normally, hydroplaning is prevented by the tread design of your tires. The tread contains grooves that channel the water through the tire, leaving the surface of the tread firmly on the road.

TOM: So one possibility is that you simply don't have enough tread left. If your tires are old and worn down, and the channels aren't deep enough, you won't be able to move water through the tires quickly enough, and you'll hydroplane.

RAY: Hydroplaning also can be caused by worn-out shocks that aren't doing their job of keeping the tires pressed down against the roadway. That makes it easier for water to push the tires off the road surface.

TOM: And if your tires and shocks haven't been changed since 2005, either or both could be the cul-



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prit now. So have your mechanic take a look and give you his opinion on both your

shocks and your tires. **RAY:** For most people who drive at reasonable speeds with good

tires and shocks, hydroplaning is a rare event. But if you live in a place that gets regular flash floods, or where there's particularly poor drainage, you might consider buying tires that are specially designed for their resistance to hydroplaning. Two that we know of are the Michelin HydroEdge and the Goodyear Assurance TripleTread.

TOM: And, like we said, slowing down helps a lot, especially when it rains, Ted.

est insurance you can buy for your car, but how often should you change it? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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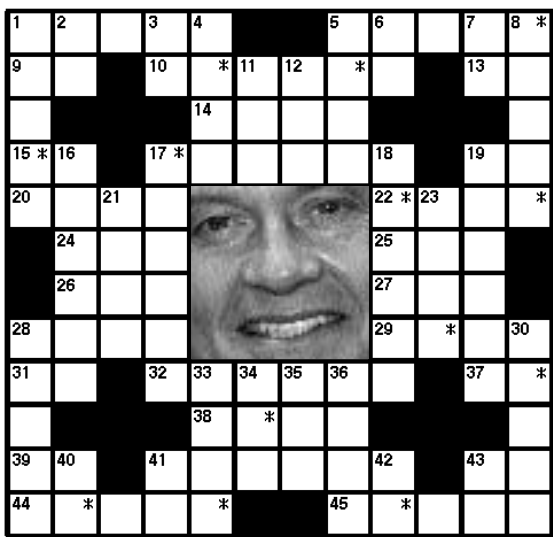
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TV CROSSWORD



The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

- ACROSS**
- Judge on "Dancing With the Stars"
 - "Cheers" actress
 - Kevin Spacey's age
 - Tamblyn and others
 - "Make ___ a Supermodel"
 - Depend
 - Initials for Ms. Fairchild
 - Mr. Sutherland
 - Setting for "Evening Shade": abbr.
 - "Primrose ___"; 1940 Ginger Rogers movie
 - Sea dwellers
 - Actress Sara
 - Skater Babilonia
 - Hampton or Holiday
 - Ron Howard's alma mater, familiarly
 - Pleased as punch
 - Harness strap
 - Suffix for late or great
 - 1984 Timothy Hutton film
 - Battery size
 - Grows gray
 - Initials for Perry Mason's portrayer
 - Actress Juliet
 - "Life ___ Mars"
 - 1983 Barbra Streisand film
 - Spencer, for one
- DOWN**
- Goodyear vehicle
 - Smallest of 50: abbr.
 - "Sha ___ Na"; 1977 series
 - Actor Katz
 - ___ Gross
 - Initials for Hot Lips Houlihan's portrayer
7. "The Wizard of Oz" role
8. "The Wonder ___" (1988-93)
11. Mayberry resident
12. 2003 Bob Newhart film
16. "No Ordinary ___"
17. Alexander of "CSI: Miami"
18. "The Lord of the Rings: The ___ of the King"; 2003 sequel
19. Role on "The Good Wife"
21. Yothers of "Family Ties"
23. "At ___"; 1983 sitcom
28. "Blades of ___"; 2007 Will Ferrell movie
30. Fran Fine's position
33. Rob Reiner's dad
34. Sense of self-esteem
35. Cry for a bowl of milk
36. Helper: abbr.
40. "I Shouldn't ___ Alive"
41. 1/8 of a gal.
42. Most-watched series of the 1998-99 season
43. "The ___"; series for Kelly Rowan
- Solution**
Kelsey Grammer

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