

How to free a car of road salt

4/4/2013 12:13:24 PM

EXTRACT

by putting in some extra cleaning efforts, motorists may be able to rid their cars of excessive amounts of sand and salt - crystalline substances which can do a number on the exterior of a vehicle.

ARTICLE CONTENT

Though there have been occasions in Canada wherein parts of the country receive random snow storms in spring, for the most part, the roads are finally free and clear of the sand and salt used to give the roads more traction under slippery conditions. While the gravel and dirt applied to the roads no doubt spared many people from getting into an accident significant enough to warrant a local car insurance claim, it leaves a major mess for public safety workers to clean up. And what isn't left on the roads is lodged into commuters' vehicles that are next to impossible to reach.

However, by putting in some extra cleaning efforts, motorists may be able to rid their cars of excessive amounts of sand and salt - crystalline substances which can do a number on the exterior of a vehicle.

Because of how small sand and salt is, scanning the vehicle for sand and salt isn't enough. That's why it's important to give a vehicle a thorough cleaning at the end of winter. Motorists may want to do this themselves, but they may also want to complement their own effort by taking their vehicle through a local car wash provider. There are typically different types of washes that can be selected. Ideally, choose the one that's the most comprehensive.

Choose a car wash that cleans from the bottom

Perhaps the best selection are those that clean out a vehicle's undercarriage. A high-pressure car wash system that sprays the underbelly of a vehicle can dislodge salt and sand from vehicle components that can be difficult to reach manually. This method also helps drivers save themselves time and frustration.

Days when the skies open up should be fully taken advantage of as well. A steady rain can free a lot of the salt that lies in a car, so it's wise to take the car out for a spin while it's raining, or at the very least park it outside instead of in the garage.

Preparing for sand and salt can help prevent road salt from adversely affecting a vehicle. Automotive maintenance outlets should have a selection of waxes and protective ointments that can be applied to the vehicle so that sand and salt doesn't chip or scrape the vehicle's paint.

Motorists may have found that the rims on their tires look rundown with the winter season over. This could have happened because road salt can cause chrome to corrode and flake when present in high amounts. Drivers may want to replace their rims with those that are made out of alloy the next time winter rolls around, as they're typically more resistant to sand and salt.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, between 500,000 and 600,000 tons of sand and salt are used on the province's roads each year, with totals varying depending

on the severity of the winter season. However, thanks to modern-day technologies, road salt use has diminished from the totals that used to be spread several years ago.

CATEGORIES

Resources

