



Why Drivers Aren't Feeling the Love for Their Vehicle's Advanced Technology

The saying “more isn't always better” aptly describes how many motorists view some vehicle tech features. While car and truck manufacturers tout the latest and greatest bells and whistles, the advanced technology created to make driving easier and safer is also leaving vehicle owners feeling annoyed, frustrated, and even fearful.

What's Driving People Crazy?

So which advancements are driving motorists to the edge? Here's a list of some of the top offenders that test drivers' patience and increase their stress level.

Touch-Screen Digital Displays –

Flashy, high-tech, and continually expanding in size, touch screens look impressive, but many drivers find them distracting and inconvenient. When essential settings like turning on and off windshield wipers, heat, AC, and defrost are buried several menus deep on a touch screen (or the touch controls freeze up for some reason), it's downright dangerous. No wonder some car manufacturers are bringing back buttons and knobs in newer models.

Engine Stop/Start – This feature, with the noble purpose of conserving fuel (and saving money) by shutting off the vehicle's engine when idling, seems like a slam dunk. Unfortunately, many people don't like experiencing their engine cutting off while they're stopped at an intersection—especially in locales with abundant stop signs and traffic lights. Also, drivers report the auto stop/start function in some vehicles acts unpredictably, stopping the engine as they're pulling away rather than when at a full stop.

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Forward Collision Warning –

Sounding an audible signal (and usually also delivering a visual alert) when a crash hazard appears in front of the vehicle, this feature can help prevent an accident. On the flip side, some drivers get startled by it and feel a heightened level of stress when on the road, which can ultimately elevate the risk of a crash.

Automatic Emergency Braking and Preemptive Braking –

Automatic braking systems apply the brakes when they detect an imminent crash. Usually paired with front collision warning, this feature creates more tension than peace of mind for some drivers. Similarly, preemptive braking automatically slows down a vehicle if the system determines it's going too fast. While this sounds helpful, it can potentially cause issues if a driver encounters valid circumstances when they need to maintain acceleration to avoid a hazard.

Lane Assist – Intended to improve safety by alerting a driver when they're venturing outside of their traffic lane, lane assist functionality isn't all it's cracked up to be for some motorists. Some drivers find it



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annoying, especially when the cameras or sensors inaccurately interpret road markings and cause false alarms. And some drivers over-rely on it, which can lead to a sense of false security and reduced awareness of lane departures if the system is deactivated or has failed.

Electronic Gear Selectors –

More car makers are adding E-shifters that use electronic signals instead of mechanical components to interact with the transmission and change gears (i.e., park, reverse, neutral, drive). Their low-profile design frees up some room inside the vehicle and advocates like the smooth shifting experience they provide. However, some electronic gear selector systems are less intuitive than others, and they tend to have more issues than mechanical shifters. Needless to say, having a car or truck stuck in park or being unable to put it into reverse could pretty much ruin your day!

Fortunately, vehicle owners have the option to adjust settings, turn off, or override most advanced features if they find them unhelpful or anxiety-inducing—and many do. So, if your vehicle is loaded with “too much of a good thing,” read your manual or ask your mechanic for guidance on how to ensure your car's tech features are working for you rather than against you.

Bigger, But Not Necessarily Better

Are Larger Car Sizes Making the Roads More Dangerous?

With drivers wanting more space—and reportedly feeling safer when riding in a larger vehicle—we're seeing more SUVs on the roads than ever before. It's a trend that started over a decade ago, and the size of vehicles has been growing. According to a study, the average car size has increased by 12% in length and over 17% in width from 2013 through 2023.

But is bigger better? Pedestrian accident statistics indicate “probably no.” A recent study in the Economics of Transportation journal analyzed National Highway Traffic Safety Administration crash data about single-vehicle crashes involving pedestrians from 2016 through 2021 and determined that pedestrian fatality probability increases with vehicle size.

- **63% greater chance of death if struck by a compact SUV than by a car.**
- **68% greater chance of death if struck by a pickup truck than by a car.**
- **99% greater chance of death if struck by a full-size SUV than by a car.**

Not only vehicle weight but also hood height played a significant role in pedestrian mortality.

Ultimately, no matter what type or size car or truck you drive, it's mission critical to stay alert, aware, and responsive.

SOURCES:
<https://www.thezebra.com/resources/driving/average-car-size/>
<https://www.finn.com/en-DE/campaign/supersized>
<http://wired.com/story/tall-truck-suv-hoods-pedestrian-deaths/#:~:text=Compact%20SUVs%20were%20roughly%20the,struck%20by%20full-size%20SU>



Un-bee-leaf-able Spring Puns

- **How do you make February March?** You can't, but April May.
- **Why does April smell so good?** Because April showers.
- **What did summer say to spring?** Help – I'm about to fall!
- **What is the shortest month of the year?** May. Because it only has three letters.
- **What can you find in the middle of April and March, but not at the beginning or end of either?** The letter R!
- **Did you hear about the woman who opened a flower shop in spring?** Her business is blooming.
- **What always falls but never needs a bandage?** The rain.
- **What goes up when the rain comes down?** An umbrella.
- **Why are frogs always so happy?** Because they eat whatever bugs them.

From
<https://www.littledayout.com/funny-spring-jokes-thatll-brighten-season/>
<https://www.wordstream.com/blog/spring-puns>



Compliments of Gail Miller

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 T butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups cooked shredded chicken or use 1 lb ground chicken
- 12 oz jar of red salsa or green salsa
- 3 oz cream cheese
- 1 tsp cumin
- 8 flour tortillas
- 1 can black beans, drained (optional)

Directions:

- Heat oven to 350 degrees
- Spray 9 X 13 in pan
- Saute onion in butter until tender (if using ground chicken, brown it here)
- Stir in shredded chicken, 1/2 cup salsa, cream cheese, cumin (and optional beans)
- Spoon approximately 1/3 cup mixture in center of each tortilla. Roll up. Place seam side down in pan
- Top with remaining cheese and salsa

Bake 15 - 30 minutes
Serves 4

Note - can be made in advance and refrigerated. Will need to bake 45 - 60 minutes.

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