

# 1997 NSX Online Reference Owner's Manual

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For a printed owner's manual, click on authorized manuals or go to [www.helminc.com](http://www.helminc.com).

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### Gas Station Information

A summary of information you need when you pull up to the fuel pump.

## Owner's Identification

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OWNER \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE/  
POSTAL CODE

V. I. N. \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVERY DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date sold to original retail purchaser)

DEALER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DEALER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE/  
POSTAL CODE

OWNERS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DEALER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

This Owner's Manual should be considered a permanent part of the car, and should remain with the car when it is sold.

The information and specifications included in this publication were in effect at the time of approval for printing. Honda Motor Co., Ltd. reserves the right, however, to discontinue or change specifications or design at any time without notice and with out incurring any obligation whatsoever.

Congratulations on your selection of the 1997 Acura NSX. We are certain you will be pleased with your purchase of one of the most sophisticated and technologically-advanced sports cars in the world.

One of the best ways to enhance the enjoyment of your new Acura is to read this manual. In it, you will learn how to operate its driving controls and convenience items. Afterwards, keep this owner's manual in your vehicle so you can refer to it at any time.

Several warranties protect your new Acura. Read the warranty booklet thoroughly so you understand the coverages and are aware of your rights and responsibilities.

Maintaining your vehicle according to the schedules given in this manual helps to keep your driving trouble-free while it preserves your investment. When your vehicle needs maintenance, keep in mind that your Acura dealer's staff is specially trained in servicing the many systems unique to your Acura. Your Acura dealer is dedicated to your satisfaction and will be pleased to answer any questions and concerns.

As you read this manual, you will find information that is preceded by a **NOTICE** symbol. This information is intended to help you avoid damage to your Acura, other property, or the environment.

## A Few Words About Safety


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Your safety, and the safety of others, is very important. And operating this vehicle safely is an important responsibility.

To help you make informed decisions about safety, we have provided operating procedures and other information on labels and in this manual. This information alerts you to potential hazards that could hurt you or others.

Of course, it is not practical or possible to warn you about all the hazards associated with operating or maintaining your vehicle. You must use your own good judgement.

You will find important safety information in a variety of forms, including:

- **Safety Labels** — on the vehicle.
- **Safety Messages** — preceded by a safety alert symbol  and one of three signal words: **DANGER**, **WARNING**, or **CAUTION**.

These signal words mean:



You **WILL** be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY HURT** if you don't follow instructions.



You **CAN** be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY HURT** if you don't follow instructions.



You **CAN** be **HURT** if you don't follow instructions.

- **Safety Headings** — such as Important Safety Reminders or Important Safety Precautions.
- **Safety Section** — such as Driver and Passenger Safety.
- **Instructions** — how to use this vehicle correctly and safely.

This entire book is filled with important safety information — please read it carefully.

This section gives you important information about occupant protection. It shows how to use seat belts properly. It explains the Supplemental Restraint System. And it gives useful information about how to protect infants and children in your car.

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# Your Occupant Protection System

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Your Acura is equipped with seat belts and other features that work together to protect you and your passenger during a crash.

Seat belts are the most important part of your occupant protection system. When worn properly, seat belts can reduce the chance of serious injury or death in a crash.

For added protection during a severe frontal collision, your Acura has a Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) with a driver's airbag, passenger's airbag and automatic seat belt tensioners on the seat belts.

Two indicator lights are also part of your safety system. One reminds you to make sure you and your passenger wear your seat belts. The other alerts you to a possible problem with your supplemental restraint system (see page 16).

The seats, head restraints and door locks also play a role in occupant safety. For example, reclining the seat-back can decrease the effectiveness of your seat belt. Head restraints can help protect your neck and head, especially during rear-end impacts. Door locks help keep your doors from being accidentally opened during a crash.

To get the maximum protection from your occupant protection system, check the following before you drive away:

- You and your passenger are wearing a seat belts properly (see page 7).
- A child who is too small for a seat belt is properly secured in a child safety seat (see page 20).
- Both doors are closed and locked (see page 18).
- Seat-backs are upright (see page 18).
- There are no loose items that could be thrown around and hurt someone during a crash or sudden stop (see page 19).

By following these guidelines, you can reduce injuries to yourself and your passenger in many crash situations. Remember, however, that no safety system can prevent all injuries or deaths that can occur in severe crashes.

## The Seat Belt System and How It Works

### Why Wear Seat Belts

Wearing seat belts, and wearing them properly, is fundamental to your safety and the safety of your passenger.

During a crash or emergency stop, seat belts can help keep you from being thrown against the inside of the car, against your passenger, or out of the car.

Of course, seat belts cannot completely protect you in every crash. But, in most cases, seat belts reduce your chance of serious injury. They can even save your life. That is why many states and all Canadian provinces require you to wear seat belts.

### **WARNING**

Not wearing a seat belt increases the chance of serious injury or death in a crash.

Be sure you and your passengers always wear seat belts and wear them properly.

### Important Safety Reminders

Seat belts are designed for adults and larger children. A child who is too small for a seat belt must be properly restrained in a child safety seat (see page [20](#)).

We recommend using a different car to carry an infant.

A pregnant woman needs to wear a seat belt to protect herself and her unborn child (see page [9](#)).

Two people should never use the same seat belt. If they do, they could be very seriously injured in a crash.

Do not place the shoulder portion of a lap/shoulder belt under your arm or behind your back. This could increase the chance of serious injuries in a crash.

Do not put shoulder belt pads or other accessories on seat belts. They can reduce the effectiveness of the belts and increase the chance of injury.

# The Seat Belt System and How It Works

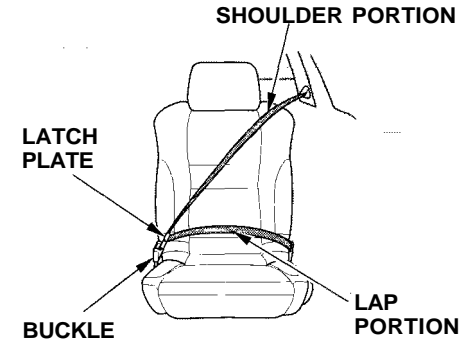
## Seat Belt System Components

Your Acura has lap/shoulder seat belts for the driver and the passenger.

Your seat belt system also includes a light on the instrument panel to remind you to fasten your seat belt, and to make sure your passenger fastens his. This light comes on when you turn on the ignition if you have not fastened your seat belt. A beeper also sounds for several seconds (see page [35](#)).

The following pages cover more about the seat belt components and how they work.

## Lap/Shoulder Belt



This style of seat belt has a single belt that goes over your shoulder, across your chest, and across your hips.



## The Seat Belt System and How It Works

Each lap/shoulder belt has an emergency locking retractor. In normal driving, the retractor lets you move freely in your seat while it keeps some tension on the belt. During a collision or sudden stop, the retractor automatically locks the belt to help restrain your body.

The lap/shoulder belt retractor in each passenger seating position has an additional locking mechanism intended to secure a child seat (see page 23). If the shoulder part of the belt is pulled all the way out, this mechanism will engage. The belt will retract, but it will not allow the passenger to move freely. If the belt feels too tight, unlatch it, let it retract fully, then pull it out as far as needed.

### **Wearing Seat Belts Properly**

You can increase the effectiveness of your seat belts if you take a little time to read the following pages and make sure you know how to wear seat belts properly.

#### **WARNING**

Not wearing a seat belt properly increases the chance of serious injury or death in a crash.

Be sure you and your passenger always wear seat belts and wear them properly.

# The Seat Belt System and How It Works

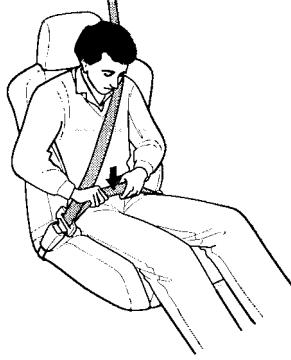
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## Wearing a Lap/Shoulder Belt



Before putting on the seat belt, move the driver's seat as far back as is practical while still allowing you to maintain full control of the vehicle. Make sure the seat-back is upright (see page 18). The passenger should move the seat as far back as possible.

1. Pull the latch plate across your body and insert it into the buckle. Tug on the belt to make sure the latch is securely locked.



2. Check that the belt is not twisted.
3. Position the lap portion of the belt as low as possible across your hips, not across your stomach. This lets your strong pelvic bones take the force of a crash.



4. Pull up on the shoulder part of the belt to remove any slack. Make sure the belt goes over your collarbone and across your chest.

## The Seat Belt System and How It Works



To unlatch the seat belt, push the red PRESS button on the buckle. Guide the belt across your body to the door pillar.

After you exit the vehicle, make sure the seat belt is out of the way and will not get closed in the door.

### Advice for Pregnant Women



Protecting the mother is the best way to protect her unborn child. Therefore, a pregnant woman should wear a properly-positioned seat belt whenever she drives or rides in a car.

When using the seat belt, remember to keep the lap portion as low as possible (see page 7).

Each time you have a check-up, ask your doctor if it's okay for you to drive and how you should position a lap/shoulder seat belt.

# The Seat Belt System and How It Works

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## Seat Belt Maintenance

For safety, you should check the condition of your seat belts regularly.

Pull out each belt fully and look for frays, cuts, burns, and wear. Check that the latches work smoothly and the lap/shoulder belts retract easily. Any belt not in good condition or not working properly should be replaced.

If a seat belt is worn during a crash, have your dealer replace the belt and inspect the anchors for damage.

For information on how to clean your seat belts, see page [209](#) .

Your car is equipped with a Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) to help protect the head and chest of the driver and front seat passenger during a severe frontal collision.

*This system does not replace your seat belts.* It supplements, or adds to, the protection offered by seat belts and other occupant protection features.

### **WARNING**

Not wearing a seat belt increases the chance of serious injury or death in a crash, even if you have airbags.

Be sure you and your passengers always wear seat belts and wear them properly.

### **SRS Components**

Your supplemental restraint system includes:

- One airbag in the steering wheel for the driver and another in the dashboard for the passenger.
- Automatic seat belt tensioners that tighten the seat belts during a severe frontal collision.
- Sensors that can detect a severe frontal collision.
- A sophisticated electronic system that continually monitors the sensors, control unit, airbag activators, and all related wiring when the ignition is ON (II).
- An indicator light on the instrument panel to alert you to a possible problem with the system.
- Emergency backup power in case your car's electrical system is disconnected in a crash.

# Supplemental Restraint System

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## What Happens In a Crash

If you ever have a severe frontal collision, the sensors will detect rapid deceleration and signal the control unit to instantly inflate the airbags and activate the automatic seat belt tensioners.

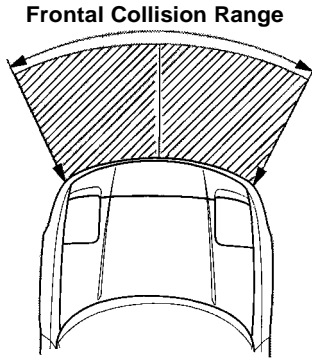
During a crash, your seat belts will help to restrain your lower body and torso, while the tensioners tighten and lock the seat belts to help keep you in place. The airbags will provide a cushion to absorb crash energy and help keep the head and chest of the driver and passenger from striking the interior of the car.

After inflating, the airbags will immediately deflate. The entire process, from detection to deflation, takes a fraction of a second. This process occurs so quickly that you may not hear the loud noise created by the airbag inflators, or realize what has happened.

After the crash, you may see what looks like smoke. This is actually powder from the airbag's surface. People with respiratory problems may experience some temporary discomfort from the chemicals used by the airbag's activators.

## Important Facts About Airbags

Airbags inflate only when needed; **in a severe frontal collision**. A severe collision would be similar to a crash into a parked vehicle of similar size and weight at 25 mph (40 km/h). Airbags will not inflate in a moderate frontal collision, or during a rear impact, side impact, or rollover — even if the impact is severe.



Airbags inflate and deflate only once. They cannot protect you during any additional impacts that can occur during a crash sequence.

Injuries, including fatal injuries, can occur in a severe collision, even if seat belts are worn properly and the airbags inflate. No safety system can provide complete protection in a severe crash.

Just from viewing the vehicle damage after a crash, it is very difficult to accurately determine if the airbags should or should not have inflated. In some cases where the airbag did not inflate, extensive visible damage indicated that the car absorbed much of the crash energy, and the airbags were not needed. In other cases, a severe jolt, such as an impact to the undercarriage, may not cause extensive body damage but may still cause the airbags to inflate.

### How the Driver's Airbag Works



If you ever have a severe frontal collision, your airbag will instantly inflate to help protect your head and chest.

*CONTINUED*

## Supplemental Restraint System

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To do its job, the airbag inflates with considerable force. So, while it can reduce serious injuries and even save your life, the airbag might cause some facial abrasions or other injuries. To reduce the possibility of injury, you should always sit back as far from the steering wheel as practical while still maintaining full vehicle control.

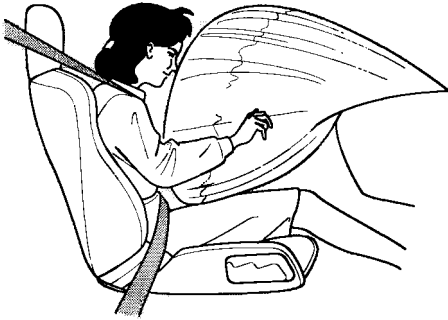


After the bag completely inflates, it immediately starts deflating so it won't interfere with your visibility, ability to steer, or ability to operate other controls. The total time for inflation and deflation is a fraction of a second. You may not even be aware that the airbag has been fully inflated.

The driver's airbag is stored in the center of the steering wheel. For your safety, do not attach any items to the steering wheel. They could interfere with the proper operation of the airbag. Or, if the airbag inflates, they could be propelled inside the car and hurt someone.



### How the Passenger's Airbag Works



If you ever have a severe frontal collision, the passenger's airbag will inflate at the same time as the driver's airbag.

This airbag is quite large and inflates with considerable force. It can seriously hurt a passenger who is not in the proper position and wearing the seat belt properly.

The passenger should move the seat as far back as practical and sit well back in the seat.

We strongly recommend that you do not put an infant seat in the passenger's seat. If the airbag inflates, it can hit the infant seat with great force. The infant seat can be dislodged or struck with enough force to cause very serious injury to the infant.

If a toddler seat is used in the front passenger's seat, the vehicle seat should be moved as far back as possible. If the passenger's airbag inflates, it could seriously hurt a toddler who is not in the proper position or properly restrained.

The passenger's airbag is stored near the top of the dashboard, under a lid marked SRS. Do not place any objects on top of this lid. If the airbag inflates, those objects can be propelled inside the car and possibly hurt someone.

## Supplemental Restraint System

### How the Automatic Seat Belt Tensioners Work



Your Acura has automatic seat belt tensioners for added protection during a severe frontal collision.

If your airbags inflate, the tensioners immediately tighten the seat belts to help hold the occupants in place. The belts will remain tight until you unbuckle them in the normal way.

**SRS**

### How the SRS Indicator Light Works

The purpose of the SRS light on your instrument panel is to alert you to a potential problem with your supplemental restraint system.

Have the system checked if:

- The light does not come on when you turn the ignition switch ON (II).
- The light stays on after the engine starts.
- The light comes on or flashes while you are driving.

If you see any of these indications, the airbags and seat belt tensioners may not work when needed in an accident. Take the car to your dealer promptly for diagnosis and service.

### System Service

Your supplemental restraint system is virtually maintenance-free. The only scheduled maintenance is an inspection of the system by the dealer when the car is ten years old. For your convenience, the car's production date is on a label on the driver's doorjamb.

If either of the following happens, you must have an authorized Acura dealer service the system. There are no parts you can safely service.

- If your airbags ever inflate, the airbags, seat belt tensioners and control unit must be replaced. Do not try to remove or discard the airbags yourself. This must be done by an Acura dealer.

- If the SRS indicator light alerts you to a problem, have the supplemental restraint system inspected as soon as possible. If you ignore this indication, the airbags might not inflate when you need them.

### System Service Precautions

Do not modify your steering wheel or any other part of the supplemental restraint system. Modifications could make the system ineffective.

Do not tamper with the system's components or wiring. This could cause the airbags to inflate inadvertently, possibly injuring someone very seriously.

Tell anyone who works on your car that you have a supplemental restraint system. Failure to follow the procedures and precautions in the official Acura service manual could result in personal injury or damage to the system.

Scrapping an entire car that has uninflated airbags can be dangerous. Get assistance from an Acura dealer if your car must be scrapped.

If you sell your car, please be sure to tell the new owner that the car has a supplemental restraint system. Alert them to the information and precautions in this part of the owner's manual.

## Additional Safety Information

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The seat belts and airbags are obviously important parts of your occupant protection system.

In addition, you should know that sitting upright, locking the doors, and stowing things properly can also increase your safety and possibly even save your life.

### **Seat-back Position**

The seat-backs should be in an upright position for you and your passenger to get the most protection from the seat belts.

If you recline a seat-back, you reduce the protective capability of your seat belt. The farther a seat-back is reclined, the greater the risk that you will slide under the belt in a severe crash and be very seriously injured.

For information on how to adjust the seat-back, see page [58](#).

### **Door Locks**

It is not safe to leave your car doors unlocked. A passenger, especially a child, could open a door and accidentally fall out. Also, there is a greater chance of being thrown out of the car during a crash when the doors are not locked.

### Storing Cargo Safely

Before you drive, make sure you first securely store or tie down any items that could be thrown around the car and hurt someone, or interfere with your ability to operate the controls.

Be sure to keep compartment doors closed when the car is moving. If a passenger hits the door of an open glove box, for example, he could injure his knees.

For information on loading cargo, see page [125](#).

### Driving with Pets

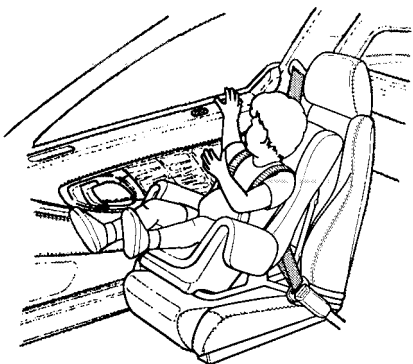
Loose pets can be a hazard while you are driving. An unrestrained pet can interfere with your ability to drive the car. In a crash or sudden stop, loose pets or cages can be thrown around inside the car and hurt you. It is also for their safety that pets should be properly restrained in your car.

The recommended way to restrain a medium-sized or larger dog is with a special traveling harness. This harness can be secured to the seat with a seat belt. Travel harnesses are available at pet stores.

A small dog, cat, or other small animal will be safest in a pet carrier with rigid sides. Choose a style that allows you to secure it to the car's seat by routing a seat belt through the carrier's handle.

For further information, contact your veterinarian or local animal protection society.

## Child Safety



Children depend on adults to protect them. To help make sure we do, every state and Canadian province has laws requiring infants and young children to be properly restrained whenever they ride in a car.

### **⚠ WARNING**

An infant or child who is not properly restrained can be killed or seriously injured in a crash.

Be sure any child too small for seat belts is properly secured in a child restraint.

### **Where Should Children Sit?**

We strongly recommend that you do not put an infant seat in the front passenger's seat. If the airbag inflates, it can hit the infant seat with great force. The infant seat can be dislodged or struck with enough force to cause very serious injury to the infant.

We recommend that you secure your child's toddler seat in the passenger's seat with the car's lap/shoulder belt. To secure the seat with the lap/shoulder belt, be sure to follow the instructions on page 23. The vehicle seat should be moved as far back as possible. If the passenger's bag inflates, it could seriously hurt a toddler who is not in the proper position or properly restrained.

We also recommend that a child who has outgrown a toddler seat be protected by properly wearing the lap/shoulder belt (see page 6). You should move the seat as far back as practical and have the child sit well back in the seat.

If the child is not large enough to wear the lap/shoulder belt properly, you should use a booster seat.

### Important Safety Reminders

Never hold a baby or child on your lap when riding in a car. If you are wearing your seat belt, the violent forces created during a crash will tear the child from your arms. The child could be seriously hurt or killed.

If you are holding a child and not wearing a seat belt in a crash, you could crush the child against the car's interior.

Never put your seat belt over yourself and a child. During a crash, the belt could press deep into the child, causing serious internal injuries.

Two children should never use the same seat belt. If they do, they could be very seriously injured in a crash.

For their safety, do not leave children alone in your car without adult supervision.

### General Guidelines for Restraining Children Under 40 lbs (18 kg)

*Use an approved child seat.* The seat must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 (FMVSS-213) or Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Look for the manufacturer's statement of compliance on the box and seat.

*Use a seat of the right size.* Make sure the seat fits your child. Check the seat manufacturer's instructions and labels for height and weight limits.

*Secure the child seat to the car.* All approved child seats are designed to be secured to the car seat by the lap belt portion of a lap/shoulder belt. A child whose seat is not properly secured to the car can be endangered in a crash.

To properly route a seat belt through a child seat, follow the seat-maker's instructions. Be sure to follow the instructions for securing a child seat with a lap/shoulder belt on page [23](#).

*Secure the child in the child seat.* Make sure the child is firmly secured to the child seat. Use the straps provided, and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.

## Child Safety

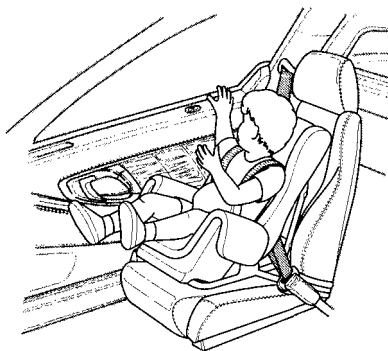
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### Restraining an Infant Who Weighs Less Than 20 lbs (9 kg)

We strongly recommend that you do not put an infant seat in the passenger's seat. If the airbag inflates, it can hit the infant seat with great force. The infant seat can be dislodged or struck with enough force to cause very serious injury to the infant.

Until a child is large enough to be safely secured in a toddler seat, we urge you to use a different car whenever you need to drive with an infant.

### Restraining a Child Who Weighs Between 20 and 40 lbs (9 and 18 kg)

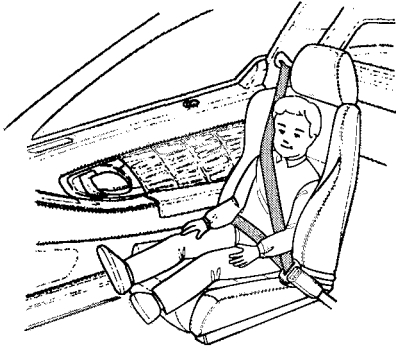


Toddler seats are designed for children who weigh between 20 and 40 lbs (9 and 18 kg).

We recommend that you secure your child's toddler seat in the passenger's seat with the car's lap/shoulder belt. Be sure to follow the instructions for securing a child seat with a lap/shoulder belt on page 23. Move the passenger's seat, as far back as possible before installing the child seat. If the passenger's bag inflates, it could seriously hurt a toddler who is not in the proper position or properly restrained.



### Restraining a Child Who Weighs Over 40 lbs (18 kg)



We recommend that a child who has outgrown a toddler seat be protected by properly wearing the lap/shoulder belt.

You should move the vehicle seat as far back as practical and have the child sit well back in the seat.

Put the lap/shoulder belt on your child and check its fit. The shoulder belt should fit over the collarbone and across the chest. The lap belt should sit low on your child's hips, not across the stomach.

If the shoulder belt crosses the neck, you should use a booster seat.

Several styles of booster seats are available. We recommend a design that allows the child to use the car's lap/shoulder belt.

Whichever style you select, follow the booster seat manufacturer's instructions.

### Securing a Child Seat with a Lap/Shoulder Belt

The lap/shoulder belt retractors in the passenger seating positions have a built-in locking mechanism intended to secure a child seat. When you are placing a child seat in one of these outside seating positions, do the following:

1. Place the child restraint in the passenger's seat. Route the lap/shoulder belt through the seat according to the seat manufacturer's instructions.
2. Insert the latch plate into the buckle. Make sure it is fully latched.
3. Slowly pull the shoulder portion of the belt out of the retractor until it stops.

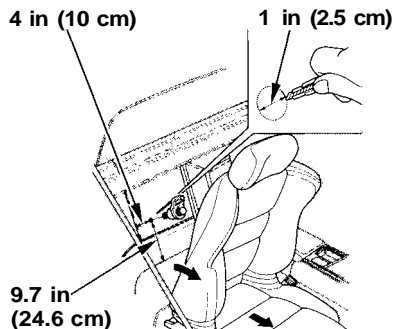
*CONTINUED*

## Child Safety

4. Allow the belt to slowly feed back into the retractor. You should hear a clicking noise that indicates the locking mechanism has engaged.
5. After the belt has retracted fully, pull up on the shoulder portion to remove any slack.
6. Push and pull on the child seat to verify that it is held firmly in place. If not, unlatch the seat belt, allow it to retract fully, and repeat these steps.

To unlatch the seat belt, push the red PRESS button on the buckle. Guide the belt across to the door pillar. If the belt doesn't retract easily, pull it out and check for twists or kinks.

### Using Child Restraints with Tethers



Your Acura is equipped with an attachment point for a child restraint system that uses a top tether. The tether attachment point is located on the panel behind the passenger's seat-back.

1. Adjust the passenger's seat fully forward to make room behind the seat-back.
2. Using the dimensions shown, measure and mark the location of the attachment point on the interior panel.
3. Use a razor blade or sharp knife to carefully cut a 2.5 cm (1 in) diameter circle at the point you marked. Cut through one layer at a time. You will need to remove two layers to reach the tether attachment.
4. Install the tether hardware that came with the child seat. Tighten the bolt to:  
16 lbf·ft (2.2 kgf·m, 22 N·m)

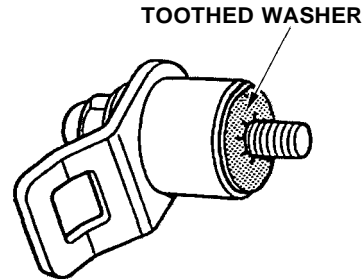
Make sure to route the tether through the space between the head restraint and seat.

If you are not sure how to install the hardware, have it installed by your authorized Acura dealer.

If you need an anchor plate and mounting hardware, contact your Honda dealer.

Acura Automobile Division  
Customer Relations Office  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

### *Canadian Cars*



The anchor plate and mounting hardware for a top tether are supplied with the car. When installing, make sure the toothed washer is on the bottom of the bolt.

The supplied anchor plate is designed only for mounting a child restraint. Do not use it for any other purpose.

### **Storing a Child Seat**

When you are not using an infant seat or other child restraint, either remove it or make sure it is properly secured so it cannot be thrown around the car during a crash.

## Alcohol and Drugs

---

Driving a car requires your full attention and alertness. Traffic conditions change rapidly. You must be able to react just as rapidly. Alcohol or drugs directly affect your alertness and ability to react. Even prescription and non-prescription medicines can have this effect.

There are laws that deal with drunken driving. These laws define how much alcohol it takes in your system to be legally "drunk." However, your judgment and reaction time get worse with every drink—even the first one.

The safest thing you can do is never drink and drive. This can be done if you plan ahead. If you know you are going to be drinking, make plans to ride with a friend who will not be drinking.

What if you find that you've been drinking and cannot get a ride from a friend? Find alternative transportation. Call a taxi. Take a bus. Many communities have transportation services devoted to shuttling people who have been drinking.

If you have no choice but to drive, stop drinking and give yourself lots of time to sober up. Time is the only thing that can make you sober. Things like coffee or a cold shower don't speed up the process.

If you see friends trying to get behind the wheel after drinking, stop them. Drive them yourself or arrange other transportation. If you think you are interfering, remember that your interference will keep them from sharing the road with you.

Your car's exhaust contains carbon monoxide gas. You should have no problem with carbon monoxide entering the car in normal driving if you maintain your car properly. Have the exhaust system inspected for leaks whenever:

- The car is raised for an oil change.
- You notice a change in the sound of the exhaust.
- The car was in an accident that may have damaged the underside.



### **WARNING**

Carbon monoxide gas is toxic. Breathing it can cause unconsciousness and even kill you.

Avoid any enclosed areas or activities that expose you to carbon monoxide.

High levels of carbon monoxide can collect rapidly in enclosed areas, such as a garage. Do not run the engine with the garage door closed. Even with the door open, run the engine only long enough to move the car out of the garage.

If you must sit in your parked car, even in an unconfined area, with the engine running, adjust the climate control system as follows:

1. Push the  button.
2. Select the  mode.
3. Turn the fan on high speed.
4. Set the temperature control to a comfortable setting.

# Safety Labels

These labels are in the locations shown. They warn you of potential hazards that could cause serious injury. Read these labels carefully and don't remove them.

If a label comes off or becomes hard to read, contact your Acura dealer for a replacement.

## RADIATOR

**⚠ DANGER**

▶ Never open red vent plug when engine is hot. Hot coolant will scald you.

**⚠ DANGER WARNING 危険**

▶ N'OUVREZ PAS QUAND CHAUD.

▶ NICHT BEI HEISSEM MOTOR OFFNEN.

▶ 熱い時にあけるな。

## BATTERY

**+ DANGER**

**EXPLOSIVE GASES** Keep sparks, flame and cigarettes away. Prohibit smoking and open flames when charging or using batteries in an enclosed space. Adequate ventilation is required.

**CHEMICAL HAZARD** Do not touch or ingest. Contact with skin, eyes, clothing, or eyes causes serious burns. Wipe off skin immediately. If clothing is soiled, remove it. If after battery gets into your eyes, irrigate. Flush thoroughly with water for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical attention immediately.

**POISON** Ingestible. **EXTERNAL**. Flush with water. **INTERNAL**. Drink large quantities of water or milk. Then follow with milk of magnesia or vegetable oil.

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**

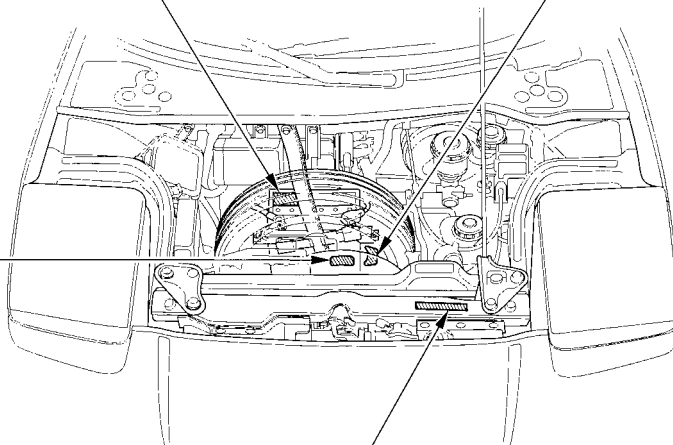
## FOLDING SPARE TIRE

AO CO

**SPARE TIRE**

- FOLLOW OWNER'S MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.
- SPARE TIRE IS FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY USE ONLY.
- MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED SPEED : 50MPH(80km/h)
- SPARE TIRE INFLATION PRESSURE :

FOR FRONT USE 180kpa (26psi)  
FOR REAR USE 220kpa (32psi)



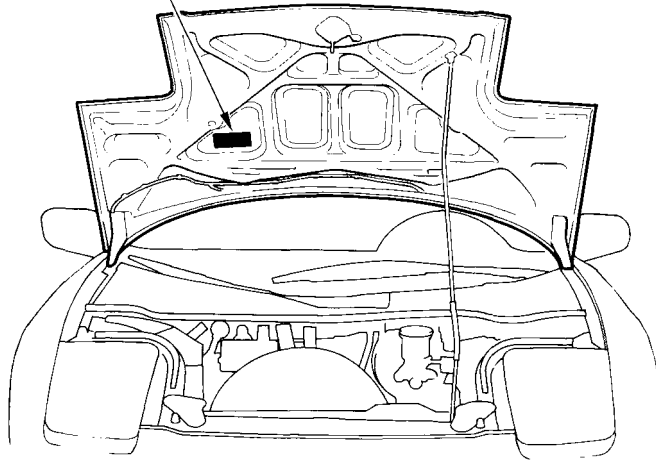
## HEADLIGHT MOTOR

**CAUTION**

1. WHEN OPERATING THE HEADLAMP OPERATING SWITCH, MAKE SURE THAT ANYONE OUTSIDE THE CAR WILL NOT HAVE HIS OR HER FINGER CAUGHT BY THE HEADLAMP COVER.
2. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO OPERATE THE HEADLAMP MANUALLY, THE FUSES (5 AMPERE) FOR THE REFLECTOR MOTOR (LOCATED IN TWO PLACES) IN THE RELAY BOX MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE SUCH OPERATION.

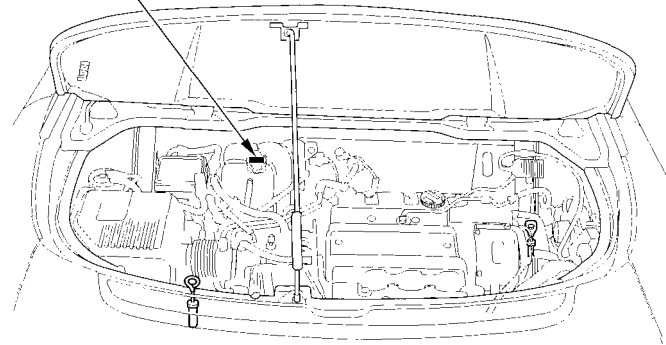
## JUMP START

**ATTENTION**  
NE PAS METTRE EN ROUTE AVEC UNE BATTERIE DE SECOURS  
LORSQU'IL Y A DU LIQUIDE SUR LA CELLULE  
NE PAS BATTERIE-DELEE, RISQUE D'EXPLOSION  
**CAUTION**  
DO NOT JUMP START WHEN BATTERY FLUID IS FROZEN.  
NE OPEN BATTERY WHEN COOLING  
**HINWEIS**  
NIE WENN BATTERIE OEFFNEN, NICHT UEBERBRUECKEN  
EXPLOSIONSGEFÄHR



## EXPANSION TANK CAP

**DANGER**  
**WARNUNG**  
NEVER OPEN WHEN HOT  
Hot coolant will scald you  
NIE OEFFNEN WENN QUAD STRAHLT  
NICHT BEI WEISSEM MOTON  
OEFNEN  
NIE STRAHLT GELT FALSCH  
**1.1**



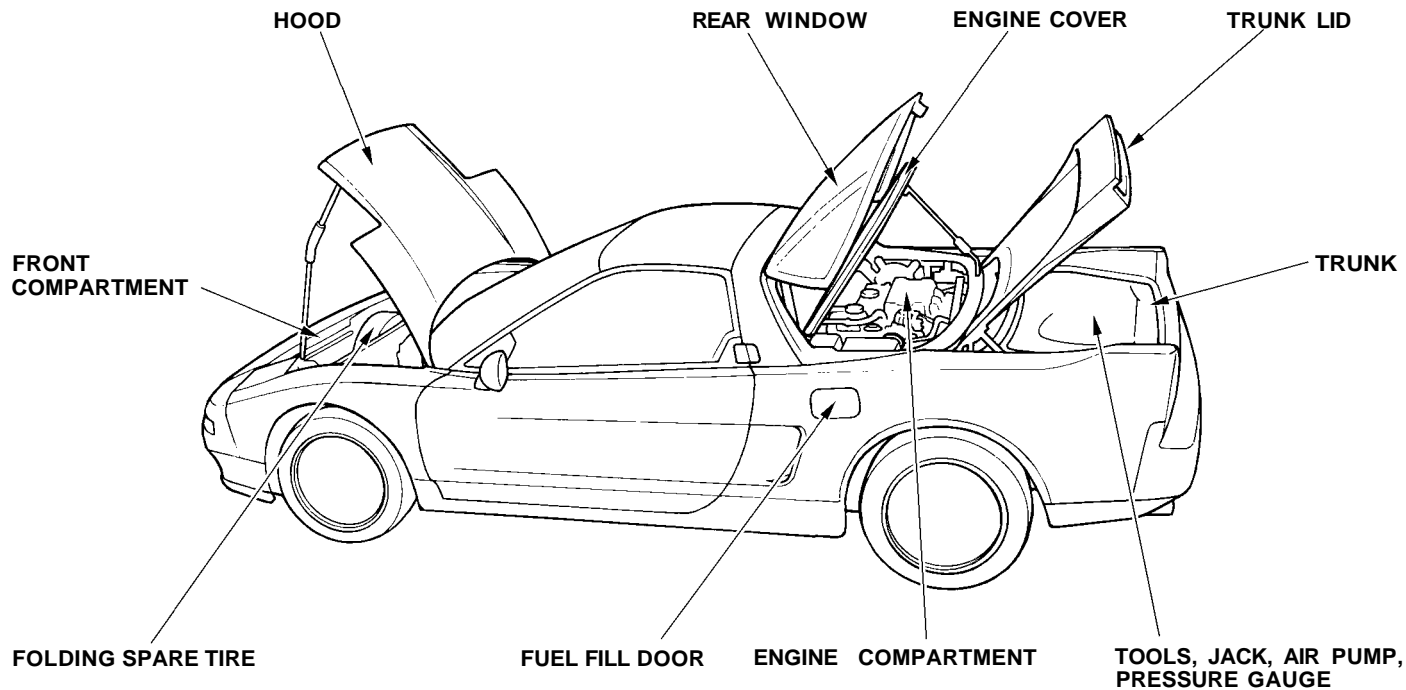
This section gives information about the controls and displays that contribute to the daily operation of your Acura. All the essential controls are within easy reach.

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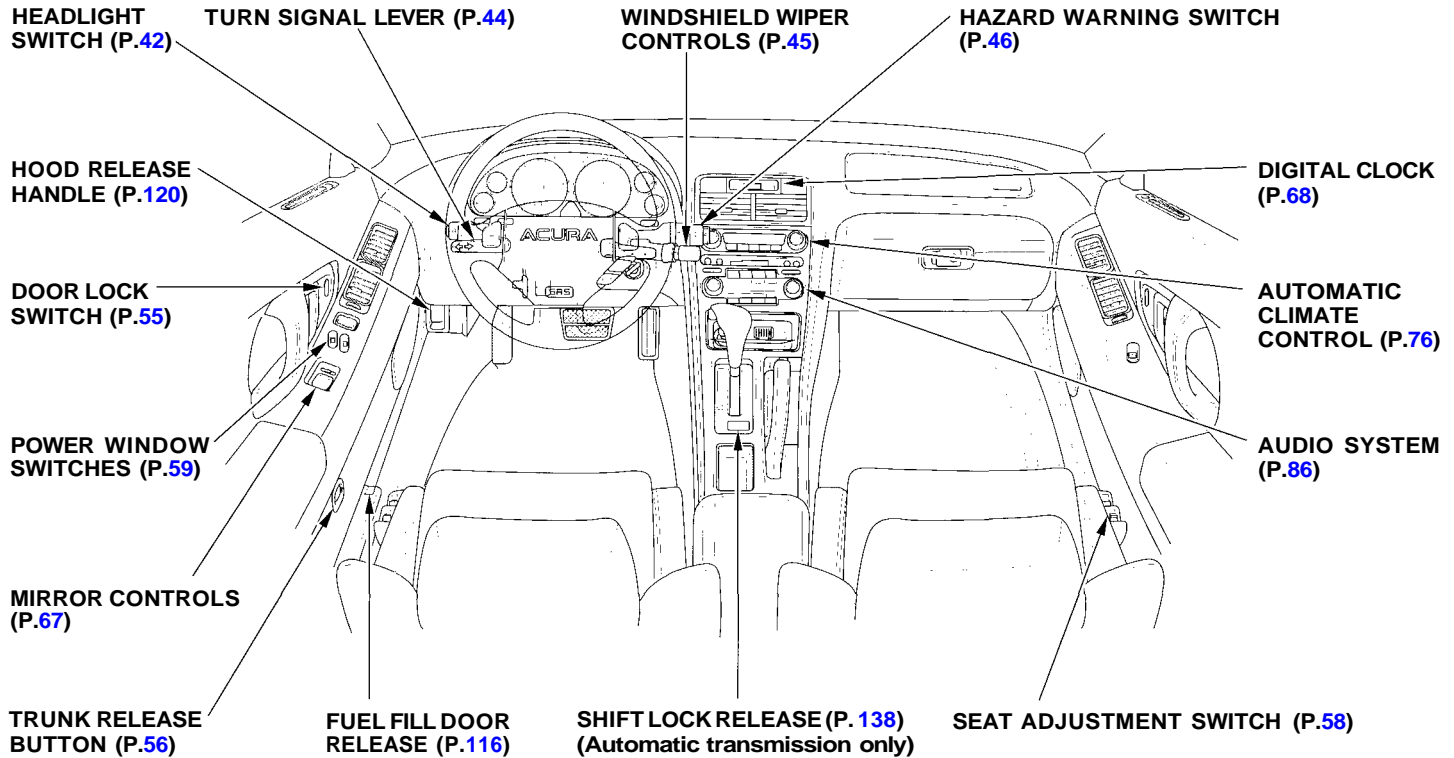
## Component Locations

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**\*NSX illustration is shown.**

# Control Locations



# Indicator Lights

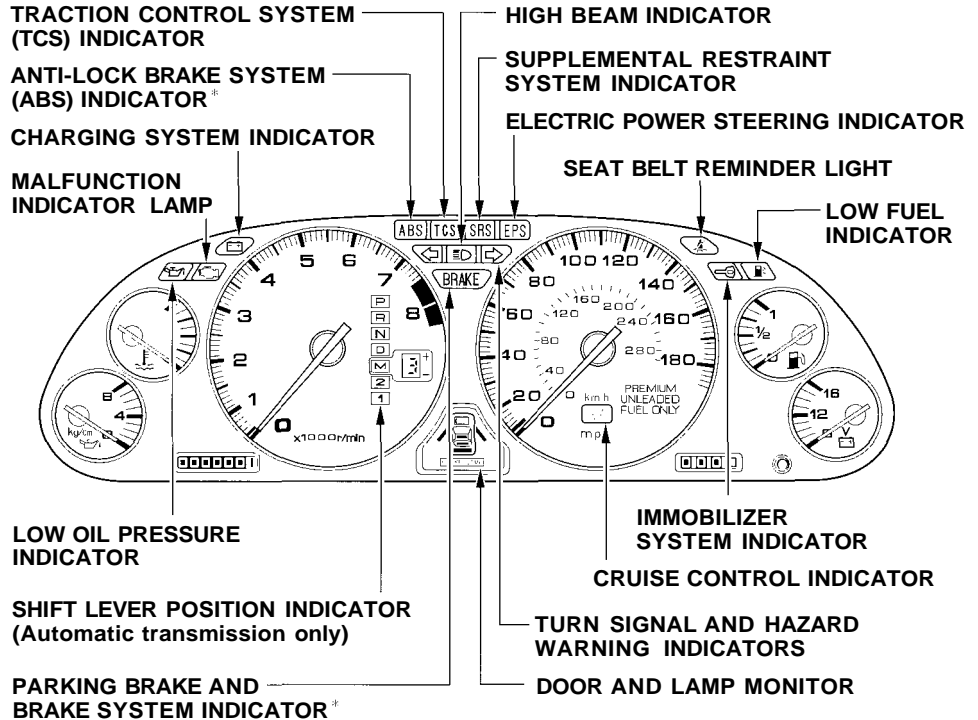
The instrument panel has many indicators to give you important information about your car.

## Lamp Check

These indicator lights come on when you turn the ignition switch ON (II), allowing you to see that they are working:

- SRS Indicator
- Malfunction Indicator Lamp
- Charging System Indicator
- Low Oil Pressure Indicator
- Anti-lock Brake System Indicator
- Seat Belt Reminder Light
- D4 Lamp
- Door and Brake Lamp Monitor
- Immobilizer System Indicator
- Traction Control System Indicator

If an indicator does not light during this test, it cannot alert you if that system develops a problem. Have the dealer check your car for burned-out bulbs or other problems.



\* The U.S. instrument panel is shown. Differences for the Canadian model are noted in the text.



### Seat Belt Reminder Light

This indicator flashes for several seconds when you turn the ignition ON (II). It flashes as a reminder to you and your passenger to fasten the seat belts. A beeper also sounds if you have not fastened your seat belt.

If you do not fasten your seat belt, the beeper will stop after a few seconds but the light stays on until you do. Both the light and the beeper stay off if you fasten your seat belt before turning on the ignition.



### Low Oil Pressure Indicator

The engine can be severely damaged if this light flashes or stays on when the engine is running. For complete information, see page [235](#).



### Charging System Indicator

If this light comes on when the engine is running, the battery is not being charged. For complete information, see page [213](#).

U.S.

**BRAKE**

Canada



### Parking Brake and Brake System Indicator

This light has two functions:

1. It lights as a reminder that you have not released the parking brake. Driving with the parking brake applied can damage the brakes and tires, and cause the Anti-lock brake system to turn off (see page [141](#)).
2. If it remains lit after you release the parking brake while the engine is running, or comes on while driving, it can indicate that the brake fluid level is low. This is normally due to worn brake pads. Have your dealer check the braking system for worn pads or fluid leaks.

# Indicator Lights

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## **Supplemental Restraint System Indicator**

This indicator lights when you turn the ignition switch ON (II). If it comes on at any other time, it indicates a problem in the supplemental restraint system. For complete information, see page [16](#).

U.S.      Canada



## **Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) Indicator**

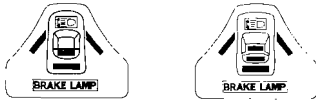
This light normally comes on when you turn the ignition ON (II) and goes off after the engine starts. If it comes on at any other time, there is a problem in the ABS. If this happens, take the car to your dealer to have it checked. With the light on, your car still has normal braking ability but no anti-lock.



## **Malfunction Indicator Lamp**

See page [237](#).

## Door and Lamp Monitor (Except NSX-T) (NSX-T)



The appropriate light comes on in this display if the rear window, trunk, roof panel (on the NSX-T) or either door is not closed tightly.

↕☰☐ light comes on if either headlight door fails to completely open or close. If a brake light does not work, the **BRAKE LAMP** indicator comes on when you push the brake pedal with the ignition switch ON (II).

A burned out brake light is a hazard when drivers behind you cannot tell you are braking. Have your brake lights repaired right away.

All the lights in the monitor display come on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch ON (II).

## EPS Electric Power Steering (EPS) Indicator

This light normally comes on when you turn the ignition ON (II) and goes off after the engine starts. If it comes on at any other time, there is a problem in the Electric Power Steering system. If this happens, stop the car in a safe place and turn off the engine. Reset the system by restarting the engine, and watch the EPS light. If it does not go off, or comes back on again while driving, take the car to your dealer to have it checked. With the light on, the EPS is turned off, making the car harder to steer.

## TCS Traction Control System (TCS) Indicator

This indicator has three functions:

1. It comes on as a reminder that you have turned off the Traction Control System.
2. It flashes when the TCS is regulating the engine power.
3. If it comes on and stays on when the Traction Control System is on, it indicates that there is a problem in the TCS.

This light also comes on when you turn the ignition ON (II) and goes off after the engine starts. See page [254](#) for more information on the TCS.

## Indicator Lights

---



### Turn Signal and Hazard Warning Indicators

The left or right turn signal light blinks when you signal a lane change or turn. If the light does not blink or blinks rapidly, it usually means one of the turn signal bulbs is burned out (see page [198](#)). Replace the bulb as soon as possible, since other drivers cannot see that you are signalling.

When you turn on the Hazard Warning switch, both turn signal lights blink. All turn signals on the outside of the car should flash.



### High Beam Indicator

This light comes on with the high beam headlights. See page [42](#) for information on the headlight controls.



### "Daytime Running Lights" Indicator

*Canadian models only*

This indicator lights when you turn the ignition to ON (II) with the headlight switch off and the parking brake set. It should go off if you turn on the headlights or release the parking brake. If it comes on at any other time, it means there is a problem with the DRL. There may also be a problem with the high beam headlights.



### Immobilizer System Indicator

This indicator should come on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch ON (II). It will then go off if you have inserted a properly-coded ignition key. If it is not a properly-coded key, the indicator will blink and the engine will not start (see page [53](#) ).

This indicator also blinks several times when you remove the key from the ignition switch.



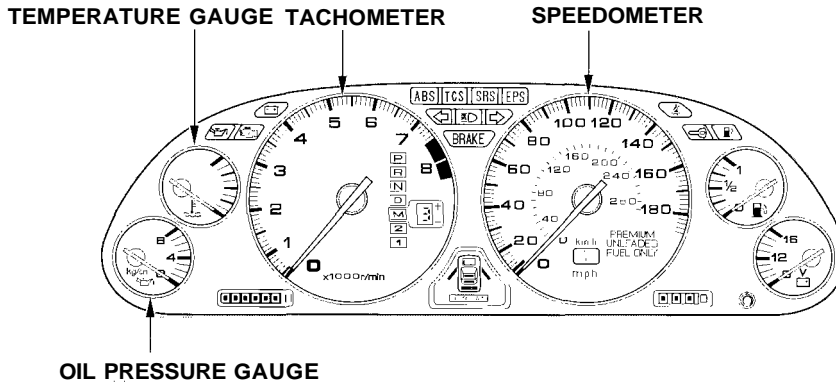
### Cruise Control Indicator

This lights when you set the cruise control. See page [46](#) for information on operating the cruise control.



### Low Fuel Indicator

This light comes on as a reminder that you must refuel soon.



## Speedometer

### *U.S. Models*

This shows your speed in miles per hour (mph). The smaller inner numbers are the speed in kilometers per hour (km/h).

### *Canadian Models*

This shows your speed in kilometers per hour (km/h). The smaller inner numbers are the speed in miles per hour (mph).

## Tachometer

The tachometer shows the engine speed in revolutions per minute (rpm). To protect the engine from damage, never drive with the tachometer needle in the red zone.

## Oil Pressure Gauge

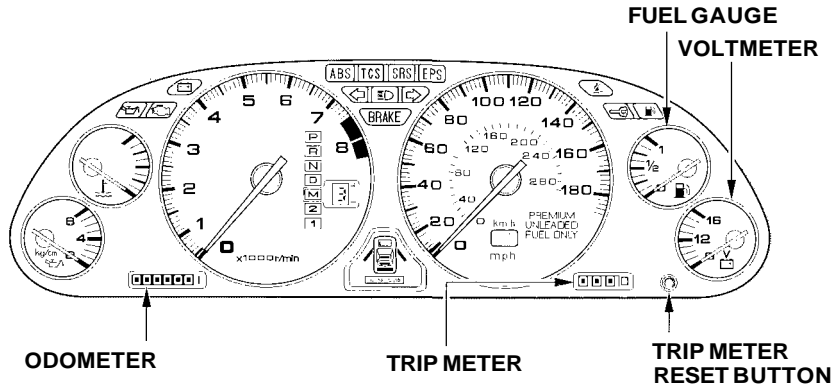
This shows the engine's oil pressure in kilograms per square centimeter ( $\text{kg}/\text{cm}^2$ ). This pressure varies with engine speed and temperature. If the oil pressure falls low enough to cause engine damage, the Low Oil Pressure Indicator comes on (see page [235](#)).

## Temperature Gauge

This shows the temperature of the engine's coolant. During normal operation, the pointer should rise from the bottom white mark to about the middle of the gauge. In severe driving conditions, such as very hot weather or a long period of uphill driving, the pointer may rise to near the upper white mark. If it reaches the red (Hot) mark, pull safely to the side of the road. Turn to page [232](#) for instructions and precautions on checking the engine's cooling system.



# Gauges



## Voltmeter

This meter shows you the battery voltage when the ignition is ON (II). A prolonged reading of lower than 11 volts can indicate a problem with the battery or charging system. Have your car inspected by your Acura dealer.

## Fuel Gauge

This shows how much fuel you have. It is most accurate when the car is on level ground. It may show slightly more or less than the actual amount when you are driving on curvy or hilly roads.

The gauge stays at the same fuel level reading after you turn off the ignition. When you add fuel, the gauge slowly changes to the new

reading after you turn the ignition switch back ON (II).

## Odometer

The odometer shows the total distance your car has been driven. It measures miles in U.S. models and kilometers in Canadian models. It is illegal under federal law (in the U.S.) and provincial regulations (in Canada) to disconnect, reset, or alter the odometer with the intent to change the number of miles or kilometers indicated.

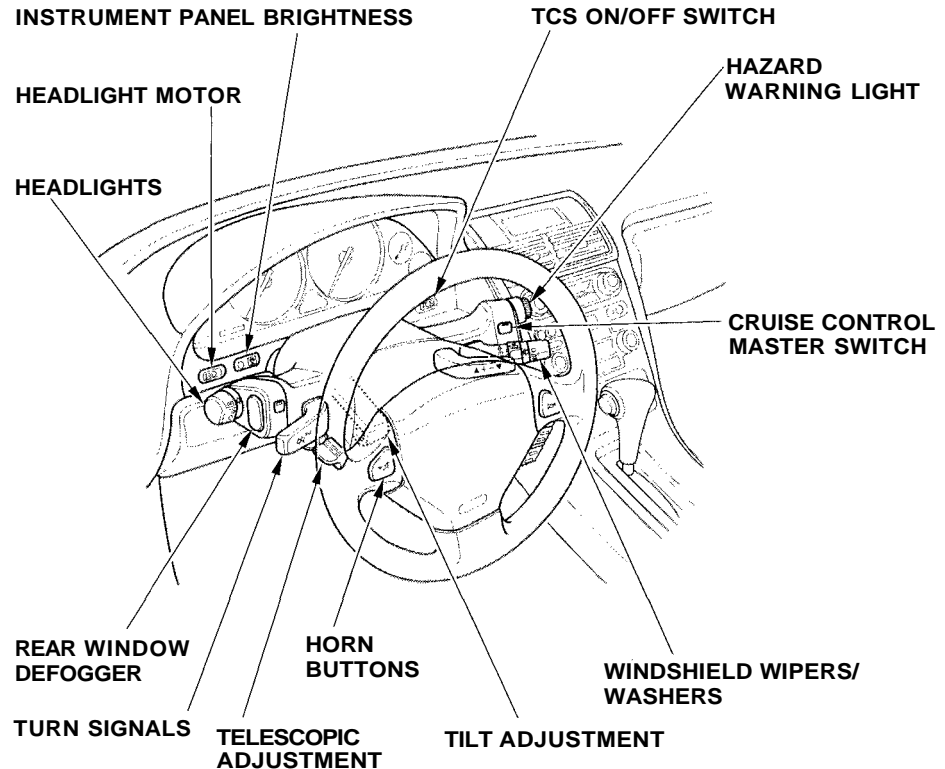
## Trip Meter

This meter shows the number of miles (U.S.) or kilometers (Canada) driven since you last reset it. To reset it, push the trip meter reset button.

# Steering Column Controls

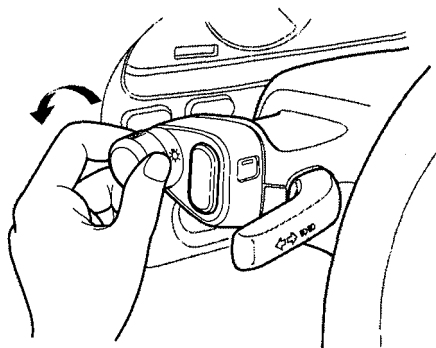
The two pods on the steering column contain controls for driving features you use most often. The left pod has controls for the turn signals, headlights, high beams, and the rear window defogger. The right pod has controls for the windshield washers and wipers, cruise control and hazard warning lights. Underneath the instrument panel are the headlight motor switch, instrument panel brightness control, and the TCS On/Off switch.

The two levers on the underside of the steering column allow you to tilt and telescope the steering wheel.



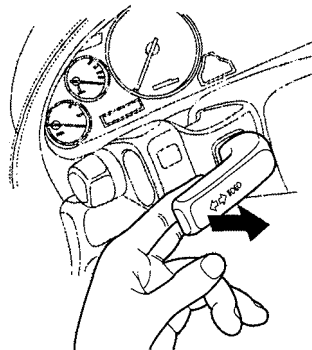
## Steering Column Controls

### Headlights



The rotating switch on the left pod controls the lights. Turning this switch to the first position “●” turns on the parking lights, taillights, instrument panel lights, side-marker lights, and rear license plate lights. Turning the switch to the second position “●” raises the headlights and turns them on.

If you leave the lights on with the ignition switch in ACCESSORY (I) or LOCK (0), you will hear a reminder chime when you open the driver's door.



To change between low beams and high beams, pull the turn signal lever as far as it will move towards you, then let go. The blue high beam indicator will light (see page 38).

To flash the high beams when the headlight doors are closed, pull back and hold the turn signal lever. This simultaneously raises the headlight doors and turns on the high beams. Release the lever and the high beams go off. Within a few seconds, the headlight doors will close automatically.

The high beams will stay on for as long as you hold the lever back, no matter what position the headlight switch is in.

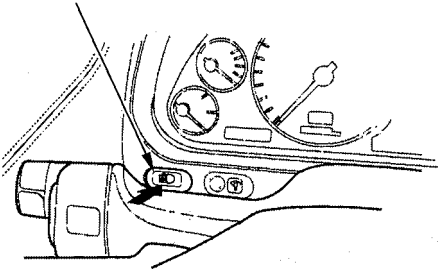
### Daytime Running Lights (Canadian Models)

Your car has Daytime Running Lights (DRL) in addition to the headlights. With the ignition ON (II) and the light switch OFF or at “●”, DRL turns on when you release the parking brake. DRL turns off when you turn the ignition off or the headlights on.

## Steering Column Controls

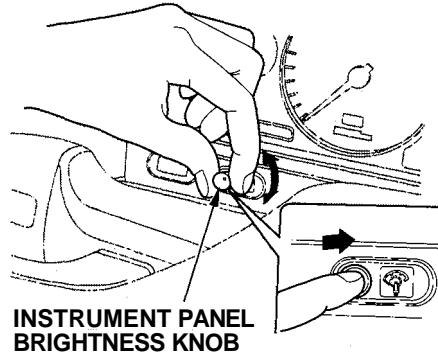
### Headlight Motor

#### HEADLIGHT MOTOR BUTTON



To raise and lower the headlight doors without turning on the headlights, push the dashboard button behind the left pod.

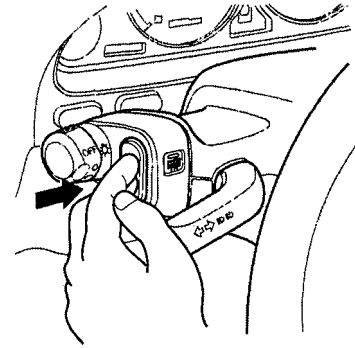
### Instrumental Panel Brightness



#### INSTRUMENT PANEL BRIGHTNESS KNOB

The knob on the dashboard behind the left pod controls the brightness of the instrument panel lights. Push the knob to get it to pop out. Turn the knob to adjust the brightness, then push it back in so you cannot accidentally bump it.

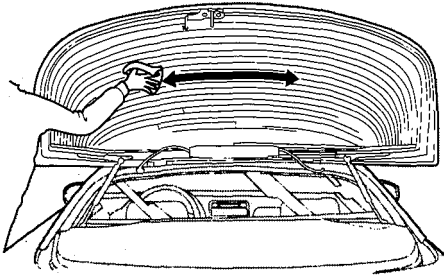
### Rear Window Defogger



The rear window defogger will clear fog, frost, and thin ice from the window. Push the defogger button to turn it on and off. The light on the front of the pod lights to show the defogger is on. If you do not turn it off, the defogger will shut itself off after about 25 minutes. It also shuts off when you turn off the ignition. You have to turn it on again when you restart the car.

**CONTINUED**

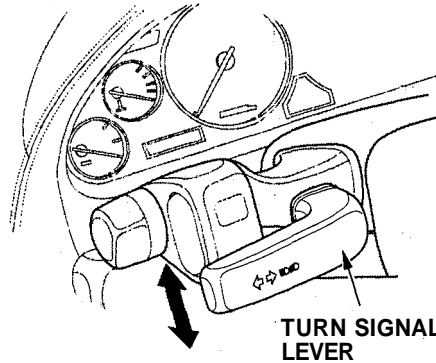
## Steering Column Controls



Make sure the rear window is clear and you have good visibility before starting to drive.

The defogger and antenna wires on the inside of the rear window can be accidentally damaged. When cleaning the glass, always wipe side to side.

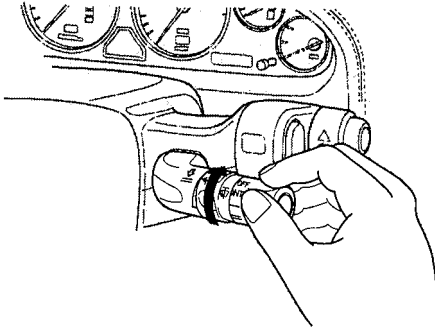
### Turn Signals



Signal a turn or lane change with this lever. Push down on the lever to signal a left turn, and up to signal a right turn. If you push it up or down all the way, the turn signal continues to blink even when you release the lever. It shuts off automatically as you complete the turn.

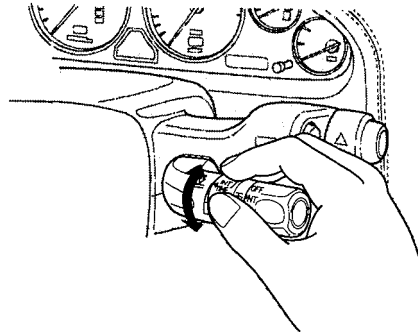
To signal a lane change, push lightly on the turn signal lever in the proper direction and hold it. The lever will return to the center position as soon as you release it.

### Windshield Wipers

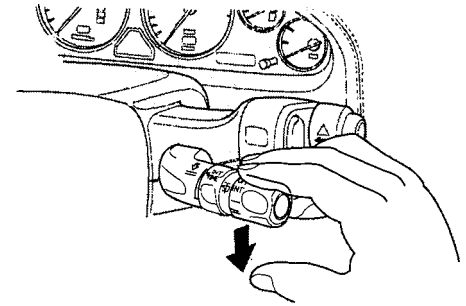


The lever on the right pod controls the windshield wipers and washers. The rotary switch at the end of the lever has three positions:

- INT: intermittent
- (LO): low speed
- (HI): high speed



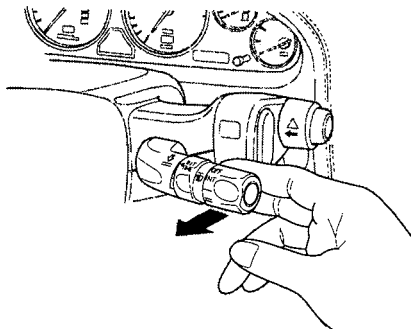
In intermittent, the wipers operate every few seconds. You can vary how often the wipers sweep the windshield by turning the INT TIME ring next to the rotary switch. In low speed and high speed, the wipers run continuously.



To operate the wipers in mist mode, push the control lever down. The wipers run at high speed until you release the lever. This gives you a quick way to clear the windshield.

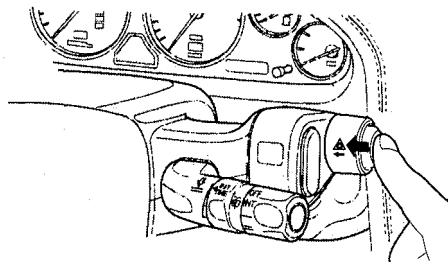
## Steering Column Controls

### Windshield Washers



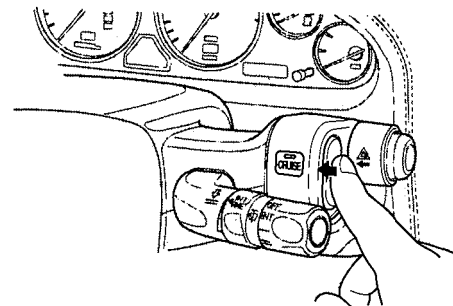
To clean the windshield, pull back on the wiper control lever. The washers spray until you release the lever. The wipers run at low speed while you're pulling the lever, then complete one more sweep of the windshield after you release it.

### Hazard Warning



Push the large red button on the right pod to turn on the hazard warning lights (four-way flashers). This causes all four outside turn signals and both indicators in the instrument panel to flash. Use the hazard warning lights if you need to park in a dangerous area near heavy traffic, or if your car is disabled.

### Cruise Control Master Switch



The cruise control master switch is on the right pod. For information on using the cruise control, see page [44](#).

## Steering Column Controls

### Steering Wheel Adjustment

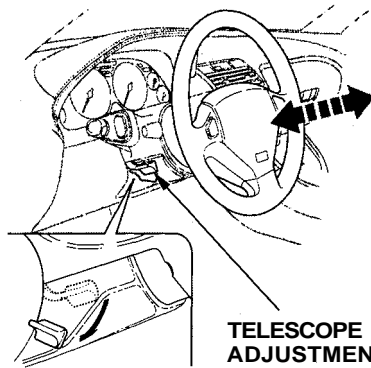
You can adjust the steering wheel angle and distance to suit your preference. Do this before you begin driving.

After you have adjusted the steering wheel, make sure you have securely locked it in place by moving it in and out and up and down.

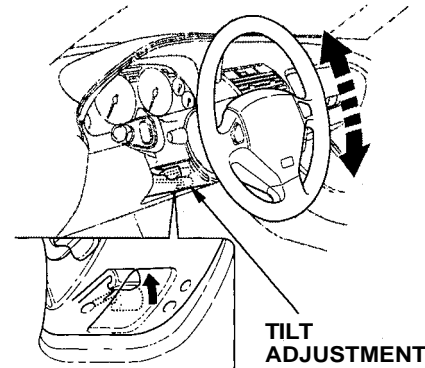
#### **WARNING**

Adjusting the steering wheel position while driving may cause you to lose control of the car and be seriously injured in a crash.

Adjust the steering wheel only when the car is stopped.



1. Adjust the seat so you are a comfortable distance from the pedals and can operate them safely.
2. The lever to telescope the steering wheel is under the steering column to the left. Push this lever all the way down.
3. Move the steering wheel in or out to the distance you want. Push the lever up firmly to lock the steering wheel in that position.



4. The lever to tilt the steering wheel is under the steering column in the middle. Pull this lever toward you and hold it.
5. Move the steering wheel up or down to the desired position. Position the wheel so you can see the instrument panel gauges and warning lights. Release the lever.



# Steering Wheel Controls

## Cruise Control

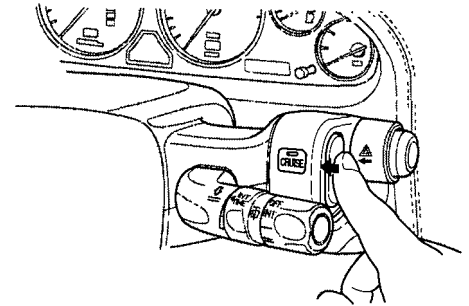
Cruise control allows you to maintain a set speed above 25 mph (40 km/h) without keeping your foot on the accelerator pedal. It should be used for cruising on straight, open highways. It is not recommended for conditions such as city driving, winding roads, slippery roads, heavy rain, or bad weather. You should have full control of the car under those conditions.

### **WARNING**

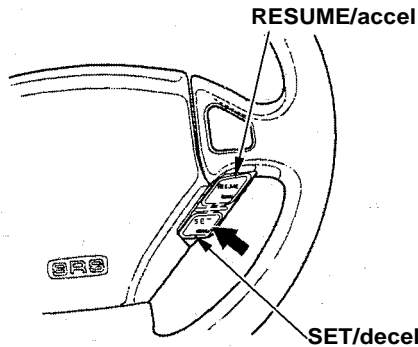
Improper use of the cruise control can lead to a crash.

Use the cruise control only when traveling on open highways in good weather.

## *Using the Cruise Control*



1. Push in the Cruise Control Master Switch on the right pod. The indicator by the switch will light.
2. Accelerate to the desired cruising speed above 25 mph (40 km/h).



3. Press and hold the SET/decel button on the steering wheel until the CRUISE CONTROL light on the instrument panel comes on. This shows the system is now activated.

The set speed may vary slightly, particularly on hills.

### **Changing the Set Speed**

You can increase the set cruising speed in either of two ways:

- Press and hold the RESUME/accel button. The car will accelerate slowly. When you reach the desired cruising speed, release the button.
- Push on the accelerator pedal. Accelerate to the desired cruising speed and press the SET/decel button.

You can decrease the set cruising speed in either of two ways:

- Press and hold the SET/decel button. The car will decelerate. Release the button when you reach the desired speed.
- Tap the brake or clutch pedal lightly with your foot. The CRUISE CONTROL light on the instrument panel will go out. When the car slows to the desired speed, press the SET/decel button. The car will then maintain the desired speed.

CONTINUED

## Steering Wheel Controls

Even with the cruise control turned on, you can still use the accelerator pedal to speed up for passing. After completing the pass, take your foot off the accelerator pedal. The car will return to the set cruising speed.

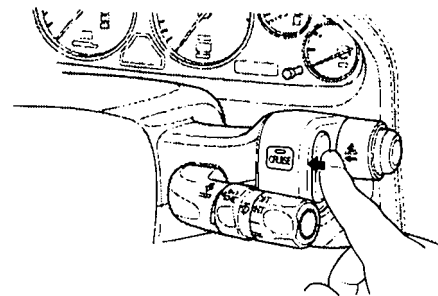
Resting your foot on the brake or clutch pedal will cause the cruise control to cancel.

### ***Canceling the Cruise Control***

Any of these actions take the car out of cruise control:

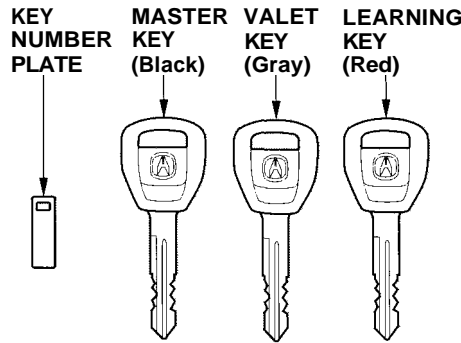
- Tap the brake or clutch pedal.
- Press the SET/decel and RESUME/accel buttons at the same time.
- Press the Cruise Control Master Switch.

When you push the CANCEL button, or tap the brake pedal, the CRUISE CONTROL light on the instrument panel will go out and the car will begin to slow down. You can use the accelerator pedal in the normal way. The system remembers the previously-set cruising speed. To return to that speed, accelerate to above 25 mph (40 km/h) and then press the RESUME/accel button until the CRUISE CONTROL light comes on. The car will accelerate to the same cruising speed as before.



Pressing the Cruise Control Master Switch turns the system completely off and erases the previous cruising speed from memory. To use the system again, refer to ***Using the Cruise Control.***

## Keys



Your vehicle comes with two kinds of keys: a master key and a valet key. The master key fits all the locks on your car:

- Ignition
- Doors
- Trunk
- Glove box

The valet key only works the ignition and the door locks. You can keep the trunk and glove box locked when you leave your car and valet key at a parking facility. (See Trunk, page 56.)

You should have received a key number plate with your set of keys. You will need this number if you have to get a lost key replaced. Keep the plate stored in a safe place. When replacing keys, use only

Acura-approved key blanks.

These keys contain electronic circuits that are activated by the Immobilizer System. They will not work to start the engine if the circuits are damaged.

- Protect the keys from direct sunlight, high temperature, and high humidity.
- Do not drop the keys or set heavy objects on them.
- Keep the keys away from liquids. If they get wet, dry them immediately with a soft cloth.

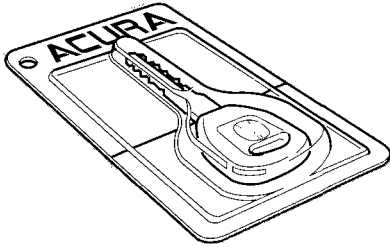
The keys do not contain batteries. Do not try to take them apart.

*CONTINUED*

## Keys and Locks

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### *Learning Key*



You should also receive a small case containing a learning key. It is used by the Acura dealer to code replacement keys to your vehicle's Immobilizer System. It must not be used in your vehicle's ignition switch. Store the learning key with the key number plate in a safe place.

If you attempt to use the learning key to start your vehicle's engine, it may cause a malfunction in the system that makes your master and valet keys unusable. If this happens, you should contact your Acura dealer.

If you need a new key made, take the key number plate, the learning key, and all other keys that came with your car to your Acura dealer.

### Immobilizer System

The Immobilizer System protects your vehicle from theft. A properly-coded master or valet key must be used in the ignition switch for the engine to start. If an improperly-coded key (or other device) is used, the engine's starting circuit is disabled.

When you turn the ignition switch to ON (II), the Immobilizer System indicator should come on for a few seconds, then go out. If the indicator starts to blink, it means the system does not recognize the coding of the key. Turn the ignition switch to LOCK (0), remove the key, reinsert it, and turn the switch to ON (II) again.

If the system repeatedly does not recognize the coding of your key, contact your Acura dealer.

Do not attempt to alter this system or add other devices to it. Electrical problems could result that may make your vehicle undriveable.

If you have lost your key and you cannot start the engine, contact your Acura dealer.

*As required by the FCC:*

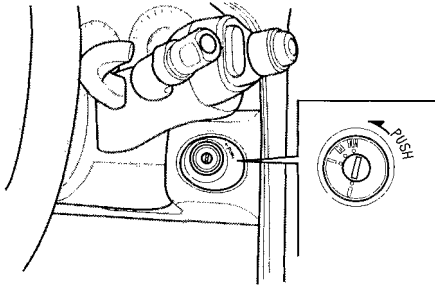
*This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following: two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including-interference that may cause undesired operation.*

*This device complies with DOC rules in Canada.*

*Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.*

# Keys and Locks

## Ignition Switch



The ignition switch is on the right side of the steering column. It has four positions:

- LOCK (0)
- ACCESSORY (I)
- ON (II)
- START (III)

**LOCK (0)** — You can insert or remove the key only in this position. When you turn the key from LOCK to ACCESSORY, you may have to turn the steering wheel to release the anti-theft lock. To switch from ACCESSORY to LOCK, you must push the key in slightly as you turn it. If your car has an automatic transmission, it must also be in Park. The anti-theft lock will lock the steering column when you remove the key.

**ACCESSORY (I)** — In this position, you can operate the audio system and the cigarette lighter.

**ON (II)** — This is the normal key position when driving. All features and accessories on the car are usable. Several of the lights on the instrument panel come on as a test when you turn the ignition switch from ACCESSORY to ON (see page 34 ).

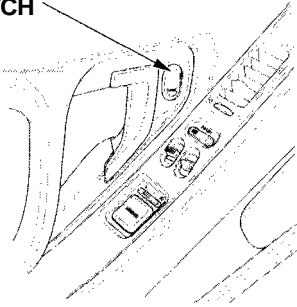
**START (III)** — Use this position only to start the engine. The switch returns to ON (II) when you let go of the key.

The engine will not start if the Immobilizer System does not recognize the key's coding (see page 58).

You will hear a reminder beeper if you leave the key in the ignition switch in the LOCK (0) or ACCESSORY (I) position and open the driver's door. Remove the key to turn off the beeper.

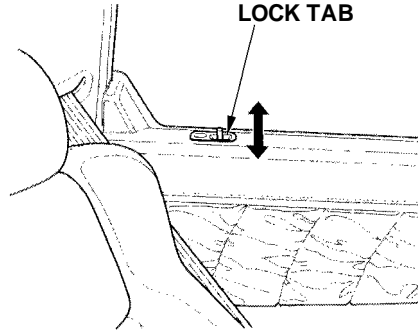
## Power Door Locks

**DOOR LOCK SWITCH**



Each door has a door lock switch. Either switch locks and unlocks both doors. Push **LOCK** to lock both doors, and the top portion of the switch to unlock them.

**LOCK TAB**



Each door also has a lock tab on the top. When you push down the lock tab on the driver's door, both doors lock. Pulling up the lock tab on the driver's door only unlocks that door. The lock tab on the passenger's door only locks and unlocks that door. To get out of the car, pull each lock tab up or use the door lock switch before you open either door.

Both doors will lock when you use the key to lock either door from the outside. Unlocking the driver's door with the key unlocks only that door. Unlocking the passenger's door with the key unlocks both doors.

To lock the door without the key, push the lock tab down and close the door.

*CONTINUED*

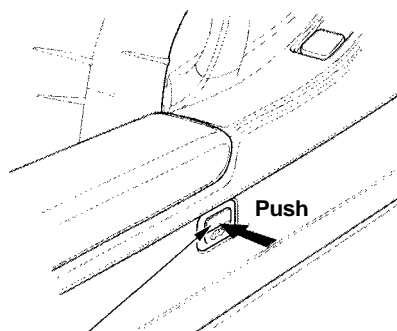


## Keys and Locks

### ***Lockout Prevention***

If you forget and leave the key in the ignition switch, Lockout Prevention will not allow you to lock the driver's door. With the driver's door open and the key in the ignition, the door lock switches are disabled. If you try to lock the driver's door by pushing down the lock tab, the tabs on both doors immediately pop up.

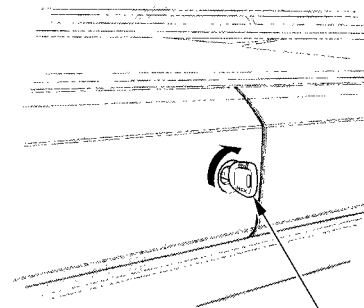
### **Trunk**



**TRUNK RELEASE BUTTON**

You can open the trunk in two ways:

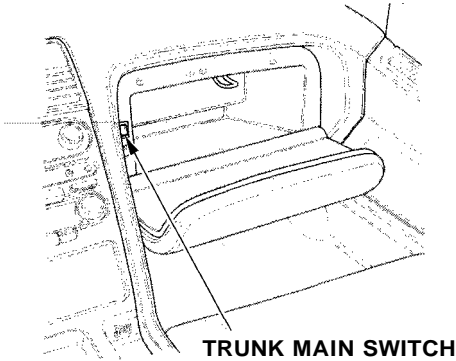
- Press the trunk release button on the driver's door.
- Use the master key to open the trunk lock. The valet key does not work in this lock.



**MASTER KEY**

To close the trunk, press down on the trunk lid. Do not press down on the rear spoiler as you may damage it.

See page [125](#) for loading cargo and weight limit information. Keep the trunk lid closed at all times while driving to avoid damaging it.

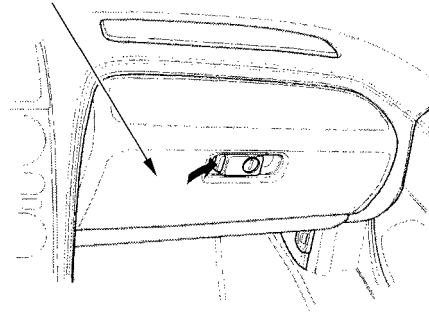


To protect items in the trunk when you need to give the key to someone else:

1. Disable the trunk release button by turning off the trunk main switch in the glove box.
2. Lock the glove box with the master key.
3. Give the person the valet key.

### Glove Box

#### GLOVE BOX



Open the glove box by squeezing the handle. Close it with a firm push. Lock or unlock the glove box with the master key.

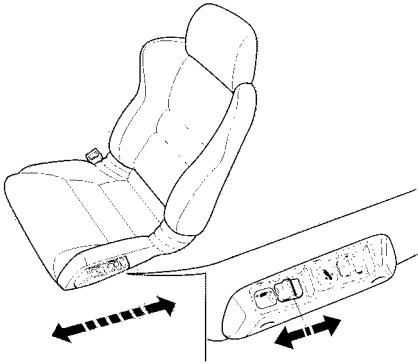
### **WARNING**

An open glove box can cause serious injury to your passenger in a crash, even if the passenger is wearing the seat belt.

Always keep the glove box closed while driving.

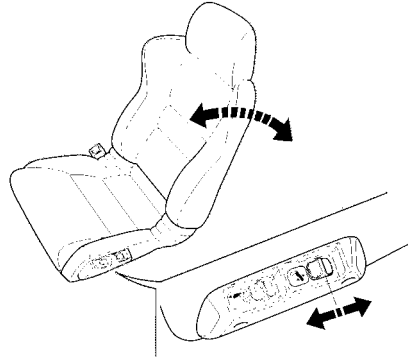
The glove box light comes on only when the instrument panel lights are on.

## Seat Adjustments



The power seats in your car are adjusted with the two switches on the outside of the seat bottom.

Push the front switch forward or backward to adjust the distance to the steering wheel and pedals.



Adjust the seat-back angle by pushing the rear switch in the direction you want to move.

You can adjust the power seats with the ignition switch in any position. Adjust the seat before you start driving.

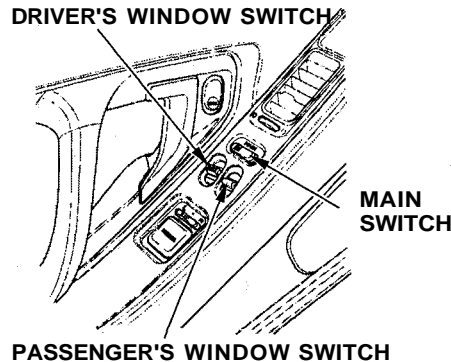
### **WARNING**

Reclining the seat-back can decrease the protection you get from your seat belt in a crash.

You can slide under the seat belt and be seriously injured.

Adjust the seat-back to an upright position and sit well back in the seat.

Your car's windows are electrically-powered. Turn the ignition switch to ON (II) to raise or lower either window.



Each window has its own control switch. To open the window, push the switch down and hold it. Release the switch when you want the window to stop. Close the window by pushing the switch up and holding it.

The driver's armrest has a master power window control panel. To open the passenger's window, push down on the switch and hold it down until the window reaches the desired position. To close the window, push up on the window switch. Release the switch when the window gets to the position you want.

### **WARNING**

Closing a power window on a child's hands or fingers can cause serious injury.

Make sure your children are away from the windows before closing them.

*CONTINUED*

## Power Windows

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The master control panel also contains these extra features:

**AUTO** — To open the driver's window fully, push the window switch firmly down and release it. The window automatically goes all the way down. To stop the window from going all the way down, push the window switch up briefly.

To open the driver's window only partially, push the window switch down lightly and hold it. The window will stop as soon as you release the switch.

The AUTO function only works to lower the driver's window. To raise the window, you must push the window switch up and hold it until the window reaches the desired position.

The MAIN switch controls power to the passenger's window. With this switch off, the passenger's window cannot be raised or lowered. The MAIN switch does not affect the driver's window. Keep the MAIN switch off when you have a child in the car so he does not injure himself by operating the window unintentionally.

The power window system has a key-off delay function. The windows will still operate for up to ten minutes after you turn off the ignition. Opening either door cancels the delay function. You must turn the ignition ON (II) again before you can raise or lower the windows.

## Removable Roof Panel

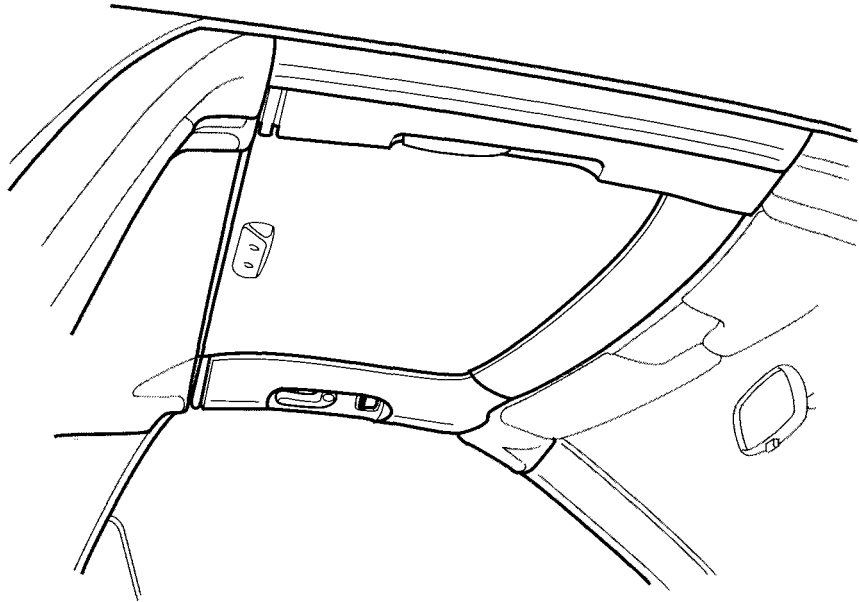
### *On the NSX-T*

Your Acura's roof panel has a single release handle on each side, making it easy to remove and install. When not in use, the roof panel can be stored in a special holder under the rear window.

Always clean and dry the roof panel before you remove it so dirt and water do not fall in the interior and engine compartment.

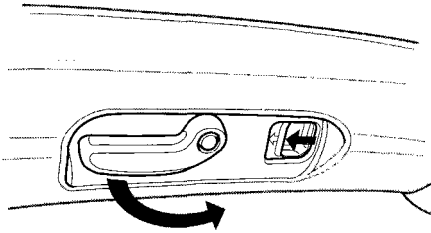
Do not put any items other than the roof panel in the roof holder or you can damage the roof holder.

One person should be able to remove and install the roof panel. Although the panel is not heavy, you may find it awkward to handle because of its size. If so, get someone to assist you so you do not damage the panel.

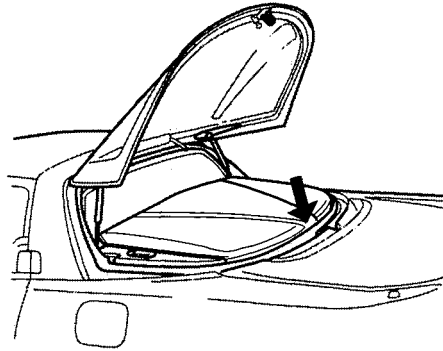


## Removable Roof Panel

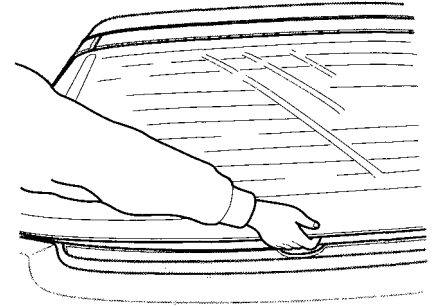
### Removing and Storing



1. Open both windows.
2. Turn off the engine and set the parking brake.
3. Release each side of the roof by pushing the lock tab sideways and pulling down the release lever.

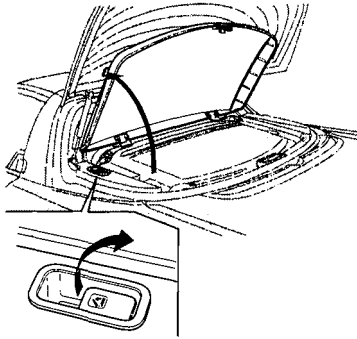


4. Open the door. Locate the rear window release handle on the rear of the driver's door opening, next to the seat. Pivot this handle towards the driver's seat. The rear window will pop up slightly.

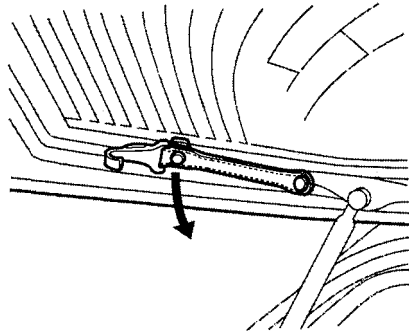


5. Stand just behind the driver's door. Reach under the rear edge of the window and raise it. It will stay up by itself.

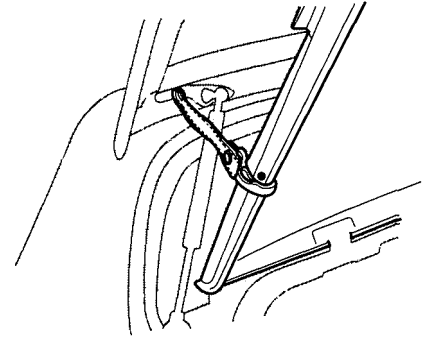
## Removable Roof Panel



6. Pull up the roof cover release lever and raise the roof cover.



7. Unsnap the hook end of the strap from the rear window frame.

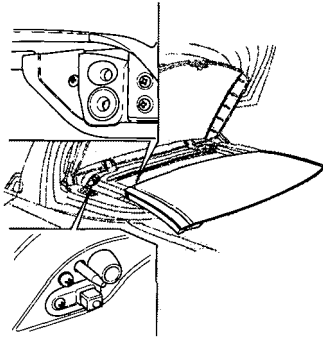


8. Put the hook around the edge of the roof cover to hold it up.

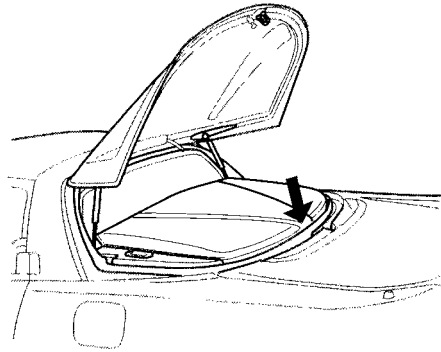
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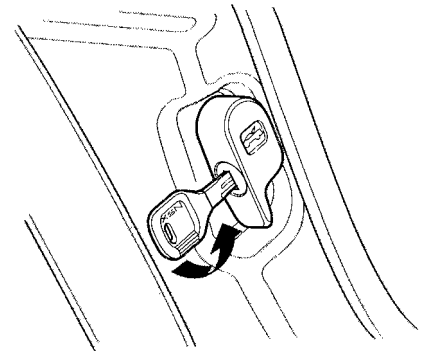
## Removable Roof Panel



9. Lift the roof straight up off the car. Since the roof must go in the holder backwards, it is recommended that you carry it around to the opposite side of the car.
10. Place the roof in the holder with the rear facing forward. Make sure the pins at both front corners of the holder are in the holes in the roof panel.

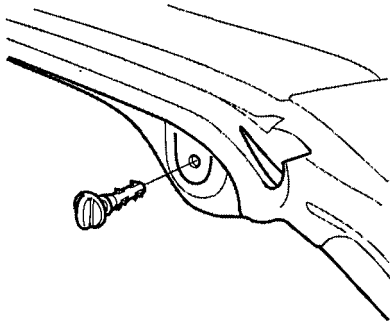


11. Lower the roof cover and push it down until it latches. Snap the hook on the window frame.
12. Pull the rear window down until it is resting on the body, then push on the center of the back edge until it latches. Make sure it is securely closed before driving away.



To prevent anyone from getting to the roof panel and the engine when you park the car with the roof removed, lock the rear window release lever with the master key.

## Removable Roof Panel



If the wind noise feels unpleasant while you are driving with the roof panel removed, you can reduce the noise by inserting a plug in the hole located at each side of the rear roof pillar. These plugs are stored in the glove box.

Do not use any plugs other than the ones that came with your car. Other objects may damage the mechanism in the roof pillar, causing the roof panel mechanism to jam or to not latch the roof properly.

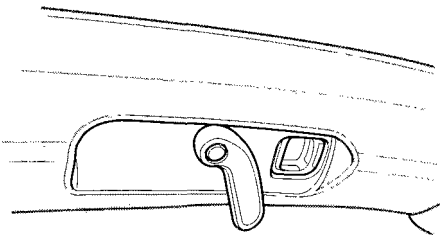
### Installing

Because it is stored above the engine compartment, the roof panel can get hot while driving. Allow it to cool down for several minutes before attempting to remove it from the roof holder.

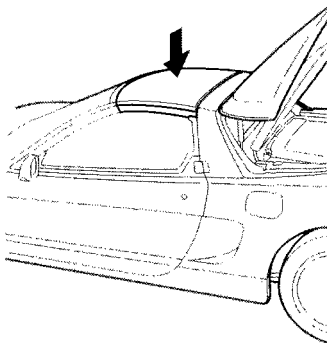
1. Open both windows.
2. Turn off the engine and set the parking brake.
3. Remove the plugs from the rear pillars.
4. Open the rear window (see page 62).
5. Open the roof cover by pulling up the release lever. Unsnap the hook from the window frame and use it to hold up the roof cover.
6. Remove the roof from the holder by pulling it up slightly, then back.

*CONTINUED*

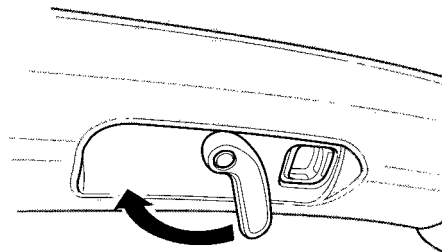
## Removable Roof Panel



7. Make sure the roof panel release levers are in the unlocked (down) position.



8. Set the roof in place on the car. Make sure all four corners are sitting flush with the car body.

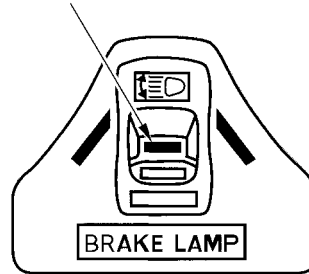


9. Secure the roof by turning each release lever until the lock tab clicks forward. Pull on the levers to make sure they are locked. If the release levers are locked correctly, the roof unlatched indicator will not light when you turn the ignition ON (II).

10. Close the roof cover and snap the hook onto the window frame.  
Close the rear window.

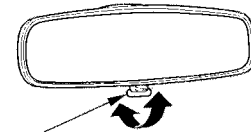
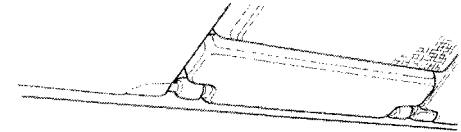
### Roof Unlatched Indicator

ROOF UNLATCHED INDICATOR



This indicator lights when the roof is installed if either release lever is not fully locked. Check both release levers to make sure they are locked. This indicator also lights when the roof is removed but is not properly stored in the holder.

### Mirrors



TAB

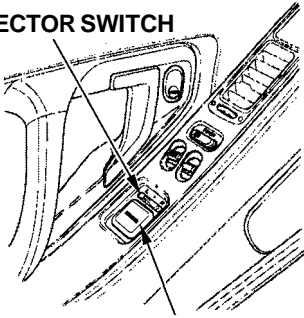
Keep the inside and outside mirrors clean and adjusted for best visibility. Be sure to adjust the mirrors before you start driving.

The inside mirror has day and night positions. The night position reduces glare from headlights behind you. Flip the tab on the bottom edge of the mirror to select the day or night position.

# Mirrors, Digital Clock

## Adjusting the Power Mirrors

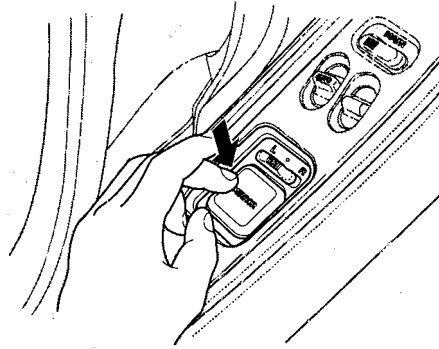
SELECTOR SWITCH



ADJUSTMENT SWITCH

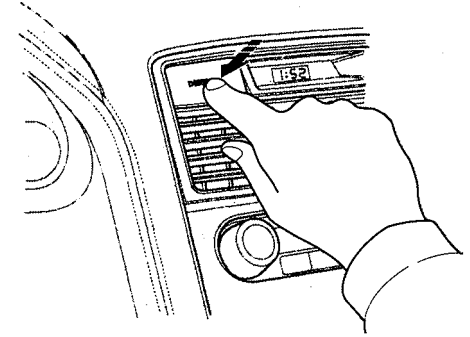
Adjust the outside mirrors with the adjustment switch on the driver's door armrest:

1. Turn the ignition switch ON (II).
2. Move the selector switch to L (driver's side) or R (passenger's side).

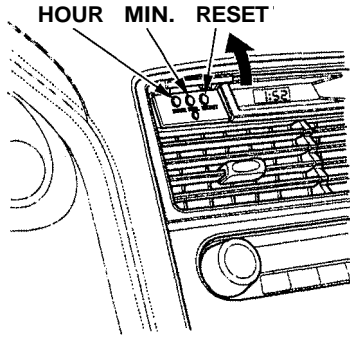


3. Push the appropriate edge of the adjustment switch to move the mirror light, left, up or down.
4. When you finish, move the selector switch to the center (off) position. This turns off the adjustment switch so you can't move a mirror out of position by accidentally bumping the switch.

## Digital Clock



The digital clock displays the time with the ignition switch ON (II). To see the time with the ignition off, press and hold the DISPLAY button.



To set the clock:

1. Turn the ignition switch ON (II) to display the time.
2. Raise the lid to the left of the clock display. You will see HOUR, MIN., and RESET buttons.
3. Press and hold the HOUR button until the hour advances to the desired time.

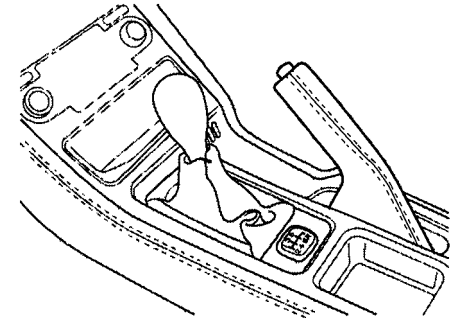
4. Press and hold the MIN. button until the numbers advance to the desired time.

You can use the RESET button to quickly set the time to the nearest hour. If the displayed time is before the half hour, pressing the RESET button sets the clock back to the previous hour. If the displayed time is after the half hour, pressing the RESET button sets the clock forward to the beginning of the next hour.

For example:

- 1:06 would RESET to 1:00.
- 1:52 would RESET to 2:00.

### Parking Brake



To apply the parking brake, pull the lever up fully. To release it, pull up slightly, push the button, and lower the lever. The parking brake light on the instrument panel should go out when the parking brake is fully released (see page 34). If you try to drive the car without releasing the parking brake, the ABS indicator may come on, and the ABS may not work properly.

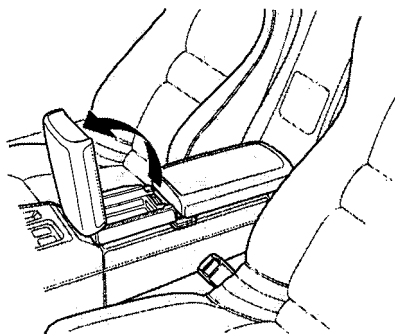
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## Parking Brake, Coin Holder, Beverage Holder

### NOTICE

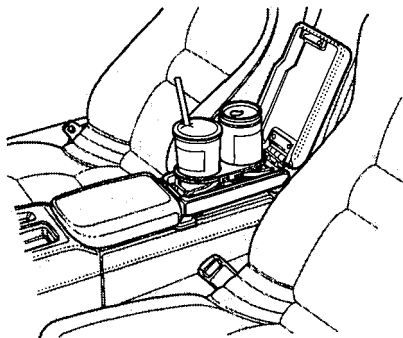
*Driving the car with the parking brake applied can damage the rear brakes and axles.*

### Coin Holder



The coin holder is located in the front half of the console compartment lid. Open the coin holder by lifting up on the middle of the armrest pad.

### Beverage Holder



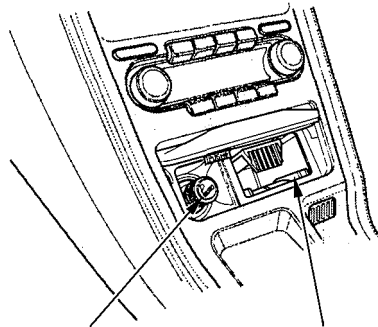
The beverage holder is located in the rear half of the console compartment lid. To use the beverage holder, lift up on the middle of the armrest pad.

To remove the beverage holder for cleaning, lift up on the front edge of the holder's front ring. To reinstall it, align the rear tab in the slot and push down on the front of the holder.

Use the beverage holder only when the car is parked. If you place cups in the holder while driving, the liquid may spill when you go over bumps or around corners.

Be careful when you are using the beverage holder. A spilled liquid that is very hot can scald you or your passenger. Spilled liquids can also damage the upholstery, carpeting, and electrical components in the interior.

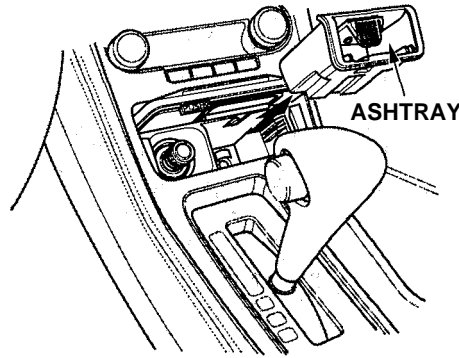
## Cigarette Lighter



**CIGARETTE LIGHTER**    **ASHTRAY**

The ignition switch must be in **ACCESSORY (I)** or **ON (II)** for the cigarette lighter to work. To heat up the lighter, push it in. It will pop out when it is ready for use. Do not hold the lighter in while it is heating up, you could cause it to overheat.

## Ashtray



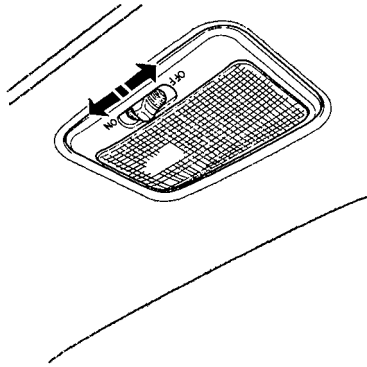
Open the ashtray by lifting the lid up. To close the ashtray, push the lid down. To remove it for emptying, lift the lid up to the open position, and push it up further. The ashtray will pop out slightly so you can grasp it and pull it all the way out. After emptying, push it all the way back in.

## NOTICE

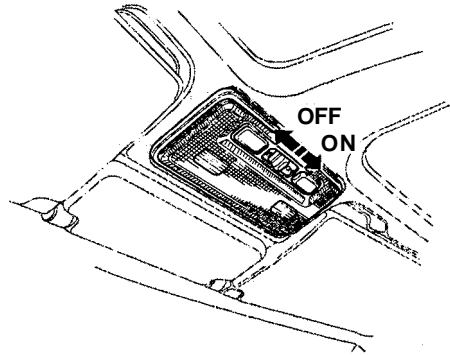
*Use the ashtray only for cigarettes, cigars, and other smoking materials. To prevent a possible fire and damage to your car, don't put paper or other things that can burn in the ashtray.*



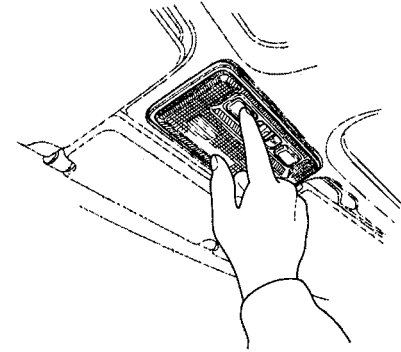
## Interior Lights



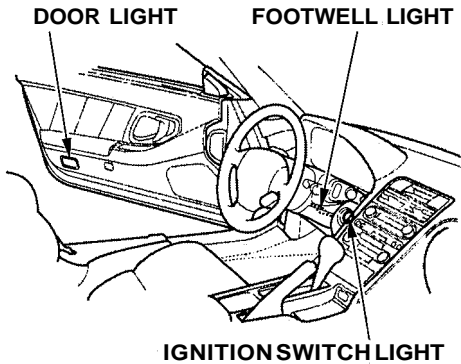
The interior light on the removable roof model is located in the center of the headliner. The interior light has a three-position switch. In the OFF position, the light does not come on. In the center position, the interior light comes on when you open either door. In the ON position, the interior light stays on continuously.



On the standard model, the interior light is on the ceiling between the sun visors. It also has a three position switch which operates as described.



In addition, when the three position switch is at the center position with both doors closed, the two bulbs in the interior light can be turned on separately by the pushbutton switches next to them. Push the switch to turn the light on or off.



When you open the driver's door, lights for the driver's footwell and the ignition switch turn on to assist you.

These lights stay on for a few seconds after you close the door.

Each door has a light near the back edge. This light comes on whenever the door is open.

## Comfort and Convenience Features

The climate control system in your Acura provides a comfortable driving environment in all weather conditions.

The audio sound system is very versatile. To get the most from this system, take the time to learn what the controls do.

The security system helps to discourage vandalism and theft of your Acura.

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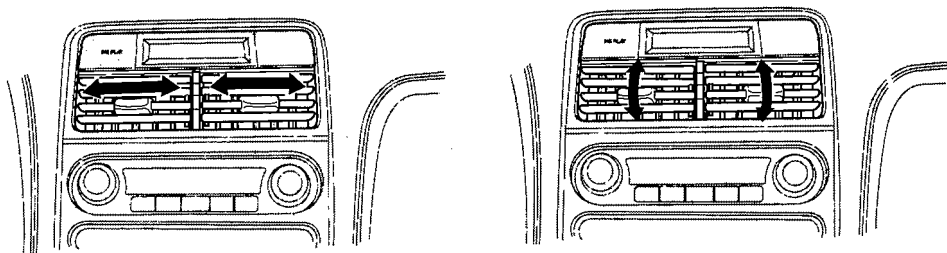
## Climate Control System

The automatic climate control system in your Acura picks the proper combination of air conditioning, heating, and ventilation to maintain the interior temperature you select. The system also adjusts the fan speed and air flow levels.

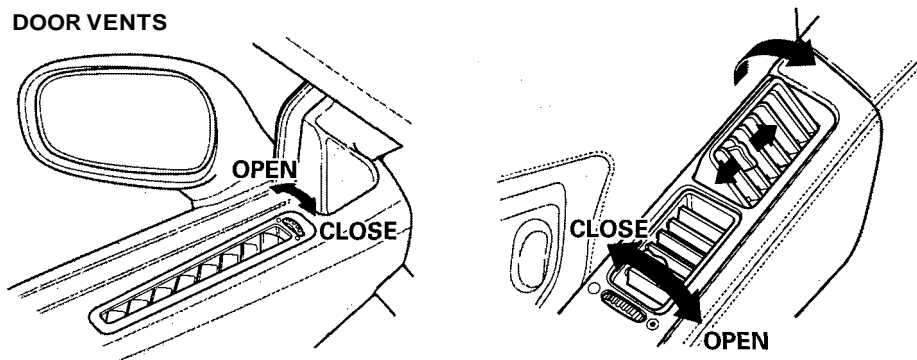
The direction of air flow from the vents in the center of the dashboard and in each armrest is adjustable. Move the tab in the center of each vent up-and-down and side-to-side.

The vents on top of each door and in each armrest can be opened and closed with the dial next to them.

### CENTER VENTS



### DOOR VENTS





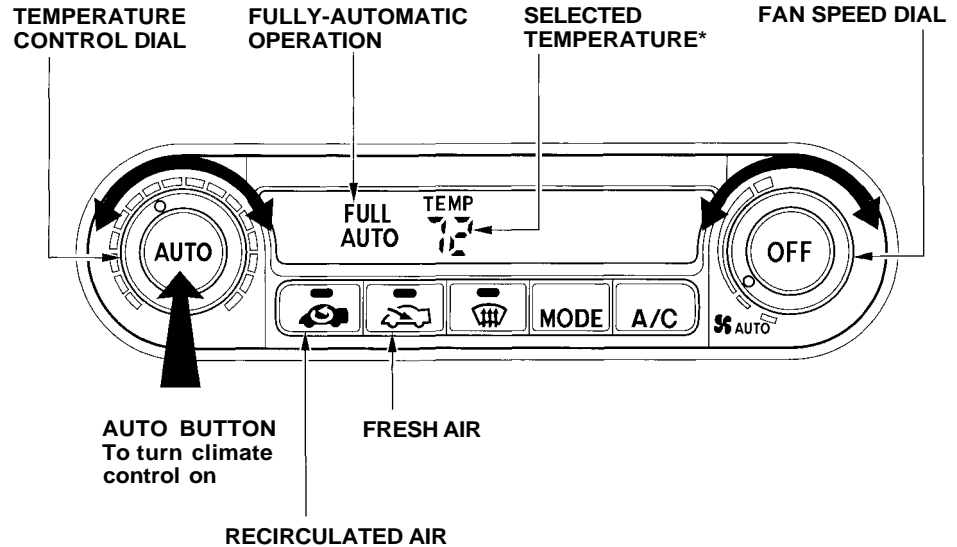
# Climate Control System

The climate control system draws air through the exterior vents at the bottom of the windshield. Keep these vents clear of leaves and other debris.

For the climate control system to provide heating and cooling, the engine must be running.

## Fully-automatic Operation

To put the Automatic Climate Control in fully-automatic mode, press the AUTO button, set the desired temperature by turning the temperature control dial and turn the fan speed dial to AUTO. You will see FULL AUTO in the system's display. The light in either the  or  button also goes on to show you which is selected.



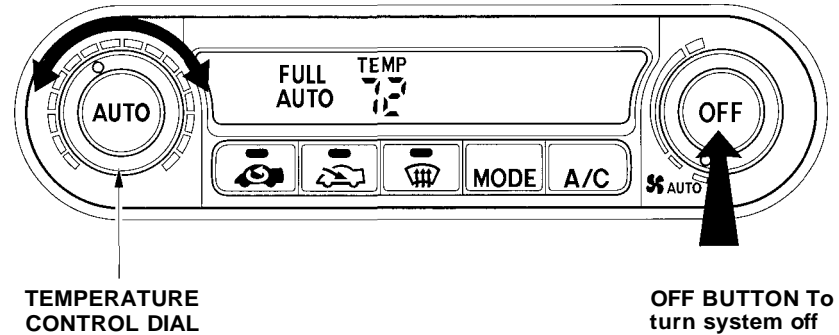
CONTINUED

## Climate Control System

When you set the temperature to its lower limit (60°F/18°C) or its upper limit (90°F/32°C), the system runs at full cooling or heating only. It does not regulate the interior temperature. When the temperature is set between the lower and upper limits, the system regulates the interior temperature to the set value.

In cold weather, the fan will not come on automatically until the engine has run for a short time and the heater starts to develop warm air.

Pressing the OFF button shuts the climate control system completely off. Keep the system completely off only for short periods. To keep stale air and mustiness from collecting, you should have the fan running at all times.

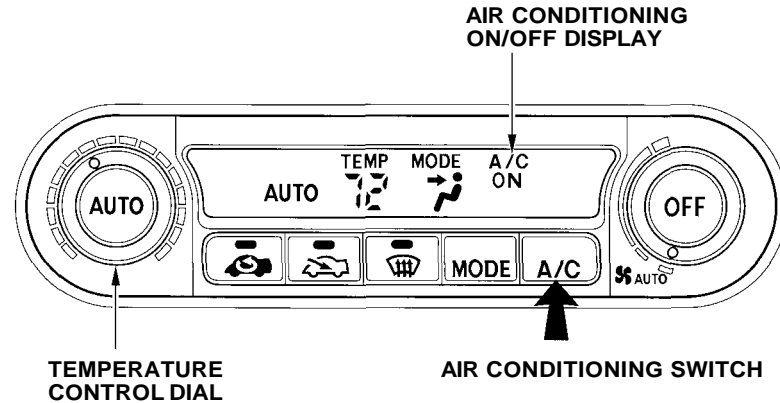
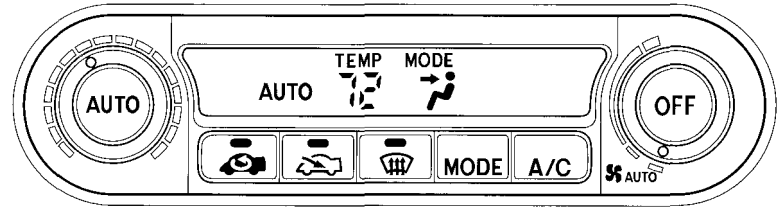


## Semi-automatic Operation

You can manually select various functions of the Climate Control system when it is in FULL AUTO. All other features remain automatically controlled. Making any manual selection causes the word FULL to go out.

## Air Conditioning Switch

Pressing the A/C switch turns the air conditioning on and off. You will see ON or OFF in the display. When you turn the A/C off, the system cannot regulate the inside temperature if you set the dial below the outside air temperature. With the A/C on, use the temperature control dial to adjust the temperature of the air flow to a comfortable setting.

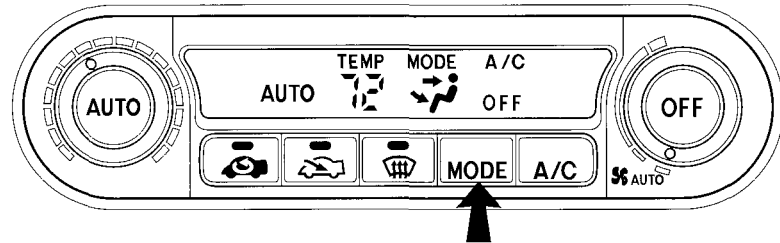


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# Climate Control System

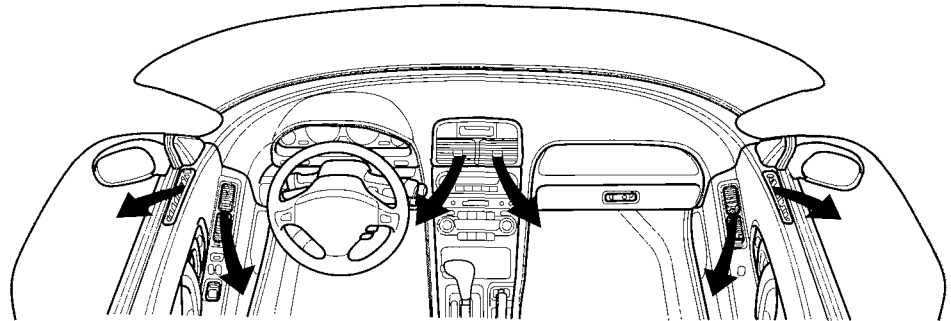
## **Mode Button**

Use the MODE button to select the vents the air flows from. Each time you press the MODE button, the display shows the mode selected. Press the button four times to see all the modes.




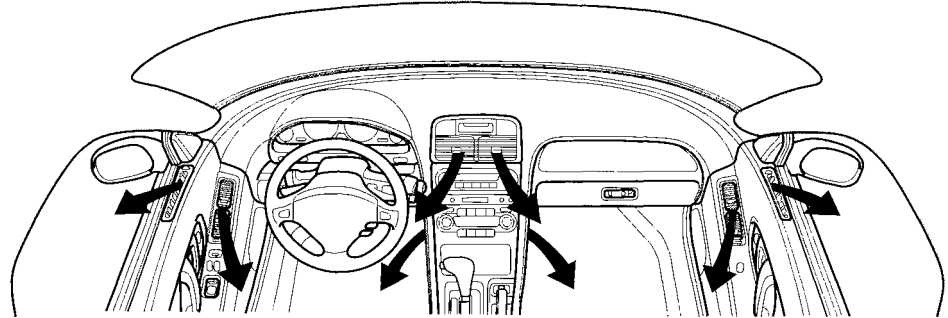
To manually select air flow direction


 The main air flow comes out of the dashboard and door vents. Close the door vents when using the air conditioning or the windows may fog up.

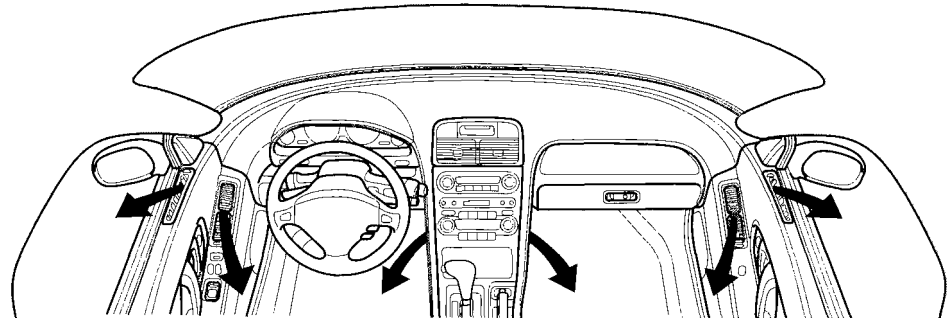




 The main air flow is divided between the dashboard/door vents and the floor vents.




 The main air flow comes from the floor vents.

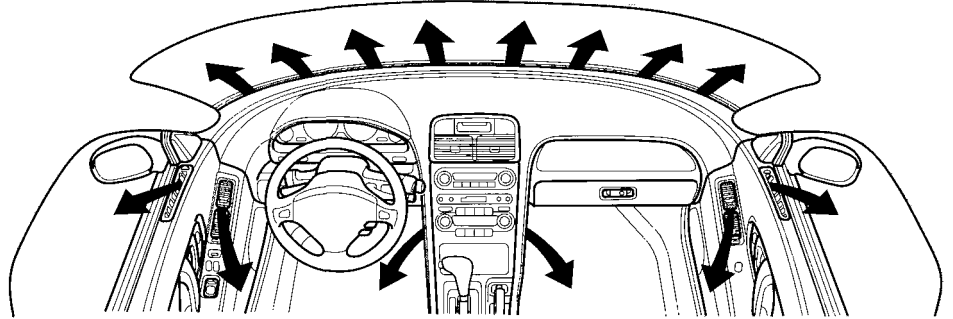


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
## Climate Control System


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 The main air flow is divided between the floor vents and windshield defroster vents.

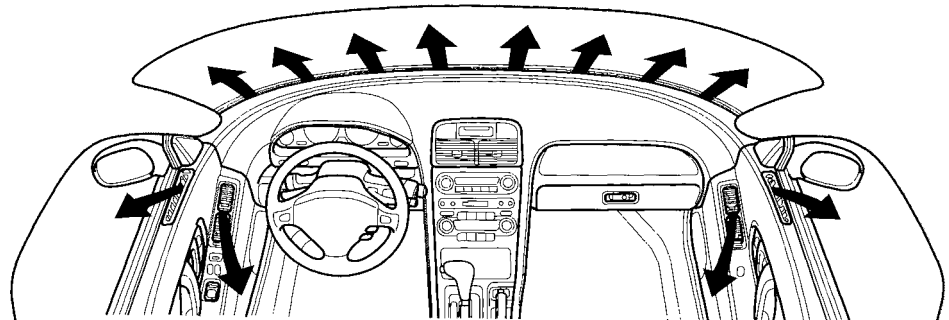
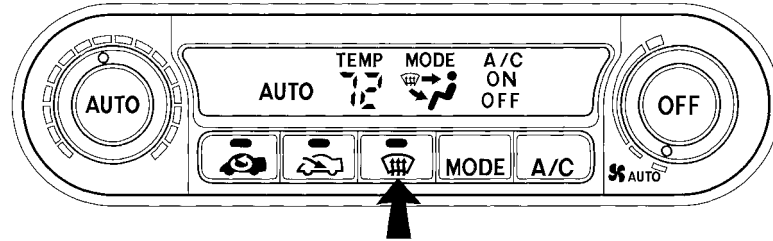


## Climate Control System

The  button directs the main air flow to the windshield for faster defrosting. It also overrides any MODE selection you may have made. To defrost more quickly, turn the temperature control to 82°F — 86°F (28°C — 30°C).

Press  and turn the fan speed dial to high. Warmed air will then flow from the windshield and side defroster vents. To turn off defrost, press the AUTO or DEFROST button.



If there is frost on the windows, first select . If the windows are fogged, select .






CONTINUED

# Climate Control System

## Recirculated and Fresh Air

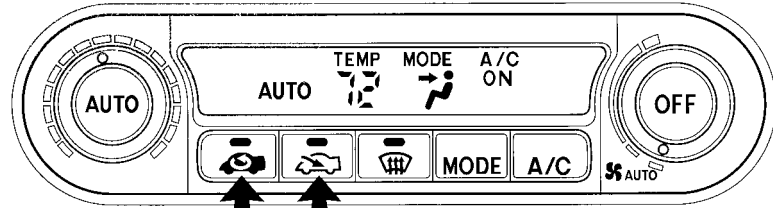
The  and  buttons select the source of air going into the climate control system.

 draws fresh air from outside.

 draws air into the system from the car's interior and recirculates it. You can, for example, manually put the system in recirculation mode when driving through an area of smoke or fumes. When you press the  or  button, the light in that button comes on.

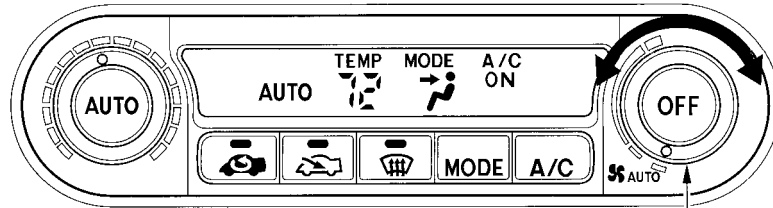
## Fan Speed

You can manually select the fan speed by turning the dial. You must turn the fan speed dial back to AUTO to go to fully-automatic climate control.



RECIRCULATED AIR

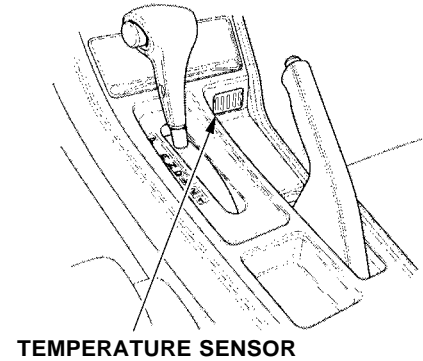
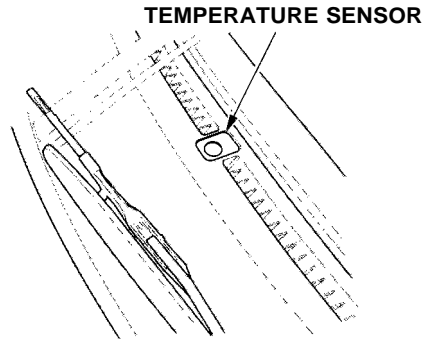
FRESH AIR



FAN SPEED DIAL

## Temperature Sensors


The climate control system has temperature sensors located on the dashboard and in the center console. Do not cover these sensors or spill any liquid on them.



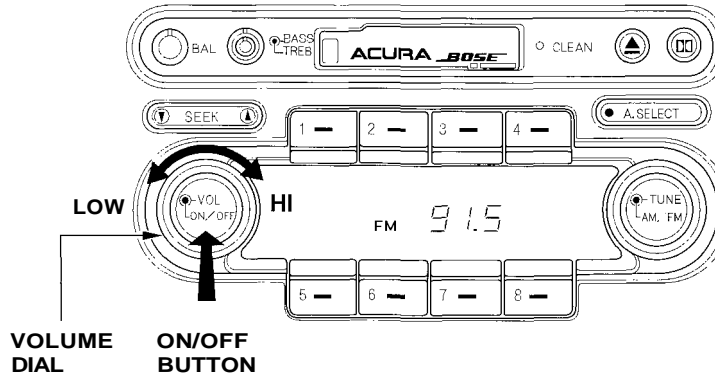
## Audio System

The sound system in your NSX can deliver excellent reception on both the AM and FM bands.

The cassette system uses Dolby B\* noise reduction to give excellent sound reproduction on tapes that were recorded using that feature. The system can also sense when a metal or chromium-dioxide (CrO<sub>2</sub>) tape is being played, and adjusts accordingly.

\* Dolby noise reduction manufactured under license from Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation. "DOLBY" and the double-D symbol  are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

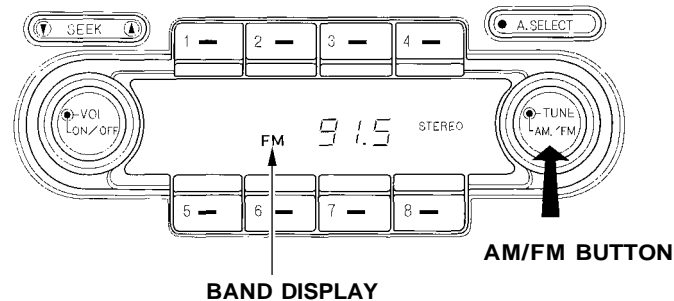
A trunk-mounted CD changer is available as an option. See page [104](#) for CD changer operation.



## Operating the Radio

The ignition switch must be in ACCESSORY (I) or ON (II) to operate the audio system. Turn the system on by pressing the ON/OFF button. The radio comes on and displays the frequency of the station it was last tuned to.

The power antenna will also extend. Adjust the volume with the VOL dial (outside ring of the left knob). Select the AM or FM band by pushing the AM/FM button. The selected band is shown next to the frequency display.

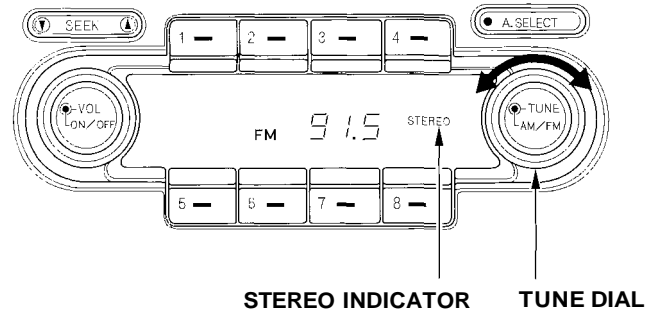


# Audio System

## Finding the Radio Station

To tune to a station, turn the TUNE dial (outside ring of the right knob). Turn it clockwise to tune to a higher frequency, and counterclockwise to tune to a lower frequency.

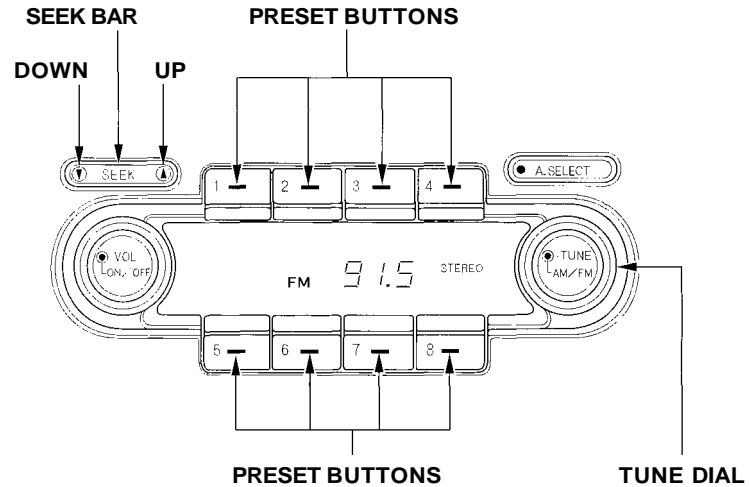
The STEREO indicator next to the frequency display lights if the station is broadcasting in FM stereo. The STEREO indicator will flash if you are driving in an area where the radio signal is weak. This system cannot receive AM broadcasts in stereo.





The easiest way to find your favorite stations is to set their frequencies into the eight preset buttons. To do this, tune to the desired station as described previously. Press one of the preset buttons (1 — 8) and hold it until you hear a beep. You can preset eight stations on each band.

When you press the SEEK bar, the radio scans the selected band and stops on the next station with a strong signal. Press the left side of the SEEK bar to scan lower frequencies, and the right side of the bar to scan higher frequencies. This helps you locate stations when driving outside your normal reception area.

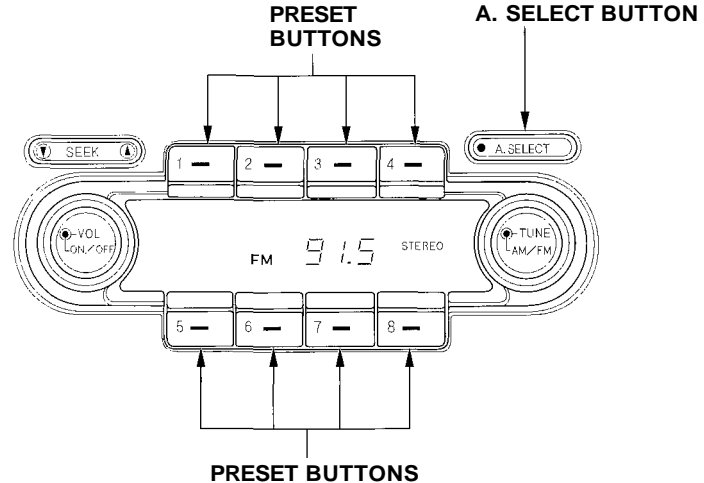


CONTINUED

## Audio System

The A. SELECT function allows you to find stations easily when you are in an unfamiliar area. Press the A. SELECT button. The system automatically scans both the AM and FM bands, memorizes the eight strongest on each band, and stores them in the eight preset buttons. You can then use the buttons to tune to those stations. The light in the A. SELECT button stays on as a reminder.

You cannot manually change any presets with A. SELECT on. If you do not like the stations found by A. SELECT, you can still use the TUNE or SEEK function to find other stations.

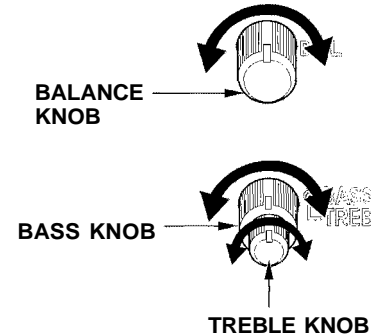
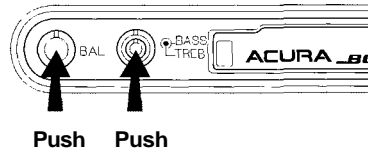


A. SELECT does not erase the stations you have manually preset. When you return to your normal reception area, turn off A. SELECT by pressing the button again. The light in the button goes out and the preset buttons can then select the stations you originally set.

## Adjusting the Sound

Use the TREB and BASS knobs to adjust the tone quality to your liking. Push on the TREB knob to get both to pop out. The outside ring changes the bass level, and the inner knob changes the treble level. When you have finished the adjustments, push the knobs back in so there is less chance of accidentally changing your settings.

The BAL control adjusts the sound balance between the speakers. Push on the knob so it pops out. Adjust the side-to-side balance as desired, then push the knob back in.



When the headlights are on, the radio panel illumination is on, even if the radio is turned off. The panel lighting can be turned off by first pushing the BAL control knob so it pops out, then pulling it out slightly farther.

## Audio System

---

### Audio System Lighting

You can use the instrument panel brightness control dial to adjust the illumination of the audio system (see page 46). The audio system illuminates when the parking lights are on, even if the radio is turned off.

### Radio Frequencies

Your Acura's radio can receive the complete AM and FM bands. Those bands cover these frequencies:

AM band:

530 to 1,710 kilohertz

FM band:

87.7 to 107.9 megahertz

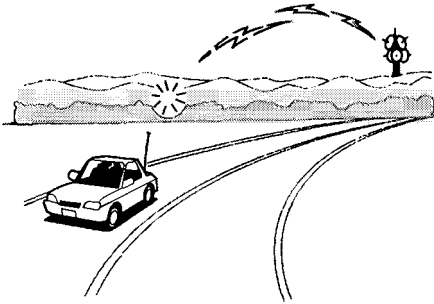
Radio stations on the AM band are assigned frequencies at least ten kilohertz apart (530, 540, 550). Stations on the FM band are assigned frequencies at least 0.2 megahertz apart (87.9, 88.1, 88.3).

Stations must use these exact frequencies. It is fairly common for stations to round-off the frequency in their advertising, so your radio could display a frequency of 100.9 even though the announcer may identify the station as "FM101."

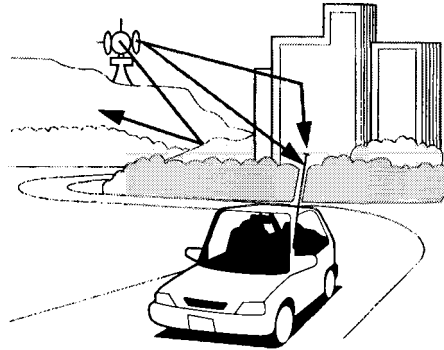
### Radio Reception

How well your Acura's radio receives stations is dependent on many factors, such as the distance from the station's transmitter, nearby large objects, and atmospheric conditions.

A radio station's signal gets weaker as you get farther away from its transmitter. If you are listening to an AM station, you will notice the sound volume becoming weaker, and the station drifting in and out. If you are listening to an FM station, you will see the stereo indicator flickering off and on as the signal weakens. Eventually, the stereo indicator will go off and the sound will fade completely as you get out of range of the station's signal.



Driving very near the transmitter of a station that is broadcasting on a frequency close to the frequency of the station you are listening to can also affect your radio's reception. You may temporarily hear both stations, or hear only the station you are close to.



Radio signals, especially on the FM band, are deflected by large objects such as buildings and hills. Your radio then receives both the direct signal from the station's transmitter, and the deflected signal. This causes the sound to distort or flutter. This is a main cause of poor radio reception in city driving.



Radio reception can be affected by atmospheric conditions such as thunderstorms, high humidity, and even sunspots. You may be able to receive a distant radio station one day and not receive it the next day because of a change in conditions.

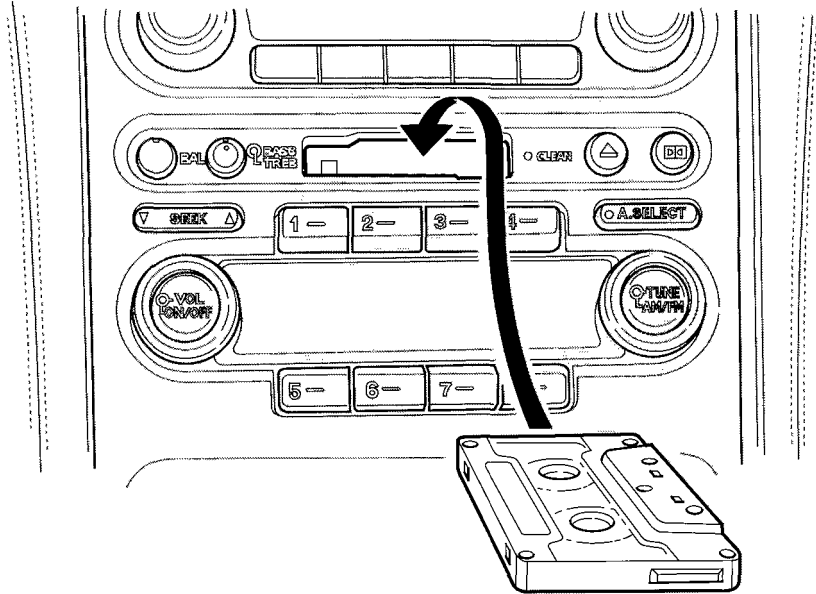
Electrical interference from passing vehicles and stationary sources can cause temporary reception problems.


## Audio System

### Operating the Cassette Player

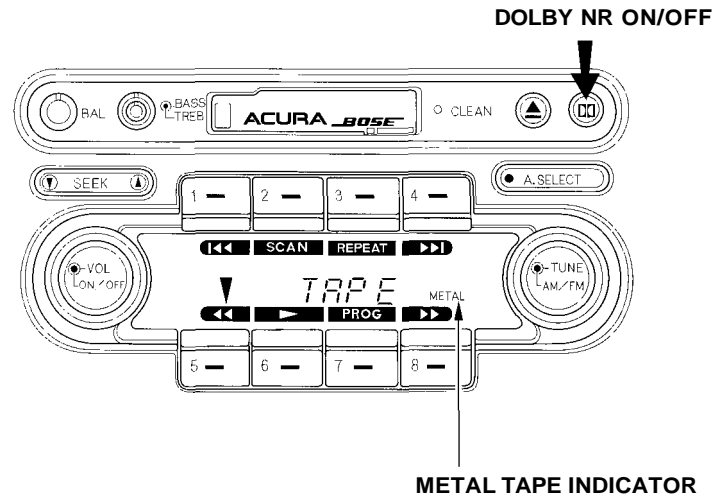
Make sure the radio is ON. Insert the cassette with the tape opening to the right. Push the cassette most of the way into the slot. It will be pulled in the rest of the way and begin to play. The display will change from the radio frequency to the word TAPE.

The ▲ or ▼ will light to show you which side of the cassette is playing. The ▲ indicates the side you inserted facing upward is now playing. To play the other side of the tape, press the PROG button. The system also has an Auto-reverse feature. It will automatically reverse direction when it reaches the end of the cassette.




Dolby B noise reduction turns on when you insert a cassette. If the tape was not recorded with Dolby B noise reduction, turn it off by pressing the  button.

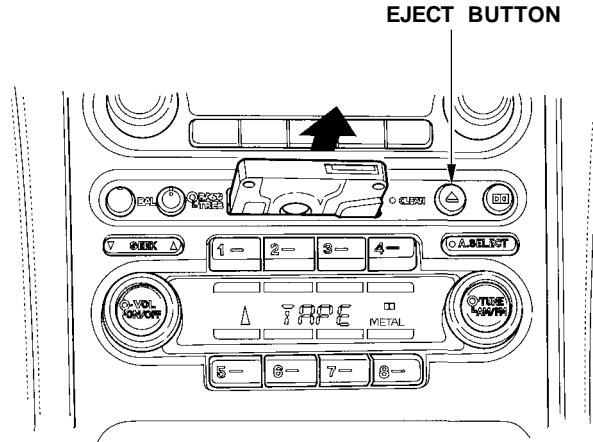
If you play a metal or chromium-dioxide (CrO<sub>2</sub>) tape, the system automatically senses it. The METAL indicator in the frequency display lights.



CONTINUED

# Audio System



To remove the cassette from the drive, press the  (Eject) button. The system automatically ejects the cassette whenever you turn off the system or the ignition switch.

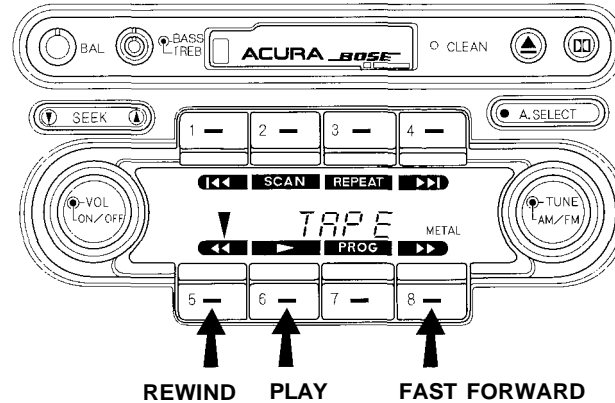




## Cassette Search Functions

You can use the preset buttons to control tape movement while playing a cassette. Six functions are available: Fast forward, Rewind, Repeat, Replay, Skip, and Scan.

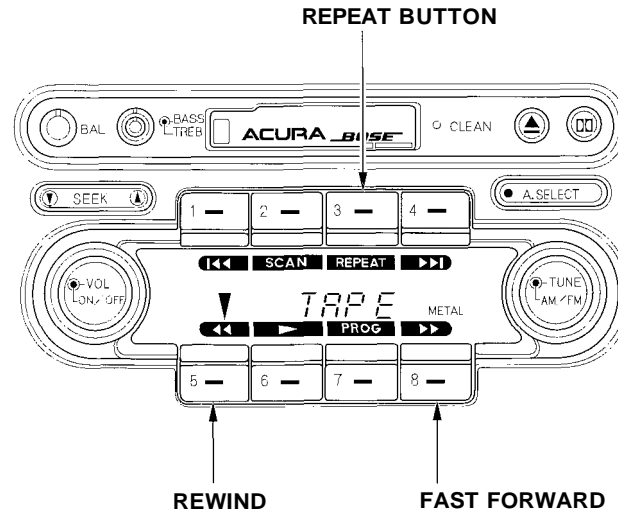
Press  to fast forward the tape.  
Press  to rewind the tape. To stop fast forward or rewind, press **PLAY**. Fast forward or rewind stops automatically at the end of the tape. The system reverses direction, then begins to play.





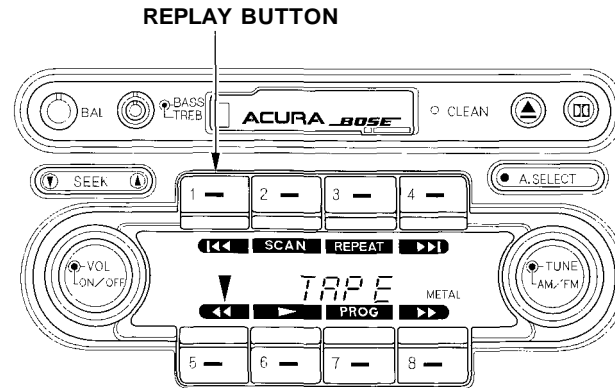
CONTINUED

## Audio System

The REPEAT function plays the current song or passage over again. Press REPEAT to enable it. The light in the button stays lit to remind you. When the system senses a silent period in the program (such as the end of a song), it rewinds the tape to the previous silent period. It continues to repeat this same passage as long as REPEAT is on. To turn it off, press the button again. Pressing ◀◀ or ▶▶ also turns off REPEAT.



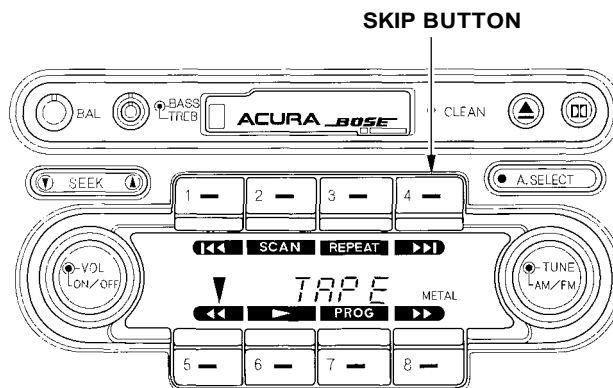
The REPLAY function  is similar to REPEAT. When you press this button, the system immediately goes into rewind. The light in the REPLAY button flashes during rewind. When it senses a silent period on the tape, the system stops rewinding and goes back to PLAY. Unlike REPEAT, this function replays a selection only once. If you do not press  again, the tape will play straight through.



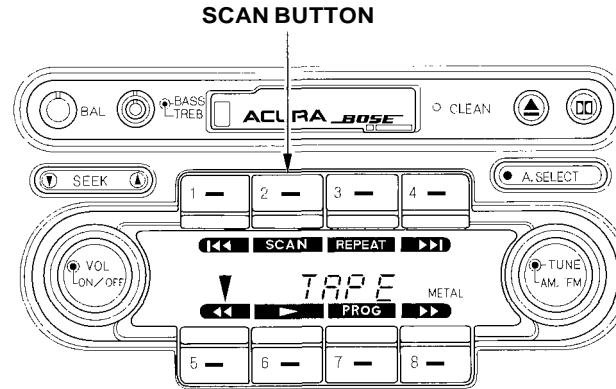
CONTINUED

## Audio System

The SKIP function **▶▶** allows you to skip over a song or other passage. When you press this button, the system goes into fast forward until it senses a silent period on the tape. The light in the SKIP button flashes during fast forward. When the system finds a silent period, it goes back to PLAY.



SCAN allows you to search a tape for a desired passage. When you press this button, the system goes into fast forward. It goes back to PLAY when it senses a silent period on the tape. It stays in PLAY for eight seconds so you can listen to that passage and decide if you want to hear it all. If you are not interested in that passage, leave the system alone. After eight seconds, it will go into fast forward again until it senses another silent passage, then go back to PLAY. When it gets to a passage you want to hear, press SCAN again. The tape plays normally after that.

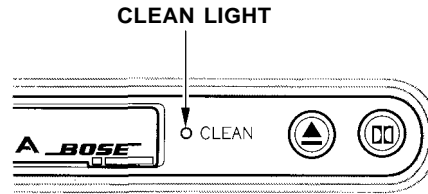


CONTINUED

## Audio System

The REPLAY, SKIP and SCAN functions use silent periods on the tape to find the end of a selection. These features may not work satisfactorily on tapes that have almost no gap between songs, a high noise level between songs, or silent periods in the middle of songs.

### Caring for the Cassette Player

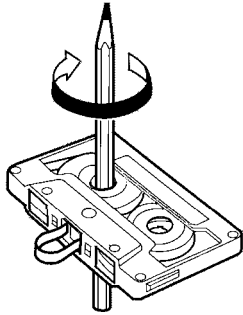


The cassette drive picks up dirt and oxides whenever you play a tape. This builds up over time and causes the sound quality to degrade. To prevent this, you should clean the cassette drive after every 30 hours of use. Your dealer has a cleaning kit available for this purpose.

After 50 hours of use, the CLEAN light comes on to remind you to clean the cassette drive. After cleaning the drive, turn off the CLEAN light by pushing it in with the tip of a ballpoint pen or similar object.

If you do not clean the cassette player regularly, it may eventually become impossible to remove the contamination with a normal cleaning kit.

Use 100-minute or shorter cassettes. Cassettes longer than that use thinner tape that may break or jam the drive.



Look at the cassette before you insert it. If the tape is loose, tighten it by turning a hub with a pencil or your finger.

If the label is peeling off, do not put it in the player. It may cause the cassette to jam in the drive mechanism when you try to eject it.

Do not leave cassettes sitting where they are exposed to high heat or humidity, such as on top of the dashboard or in the player. If a cassette is exposed to extreme heat or cold, let it reach a moderate temperature before putting it in the player.

## Audio System

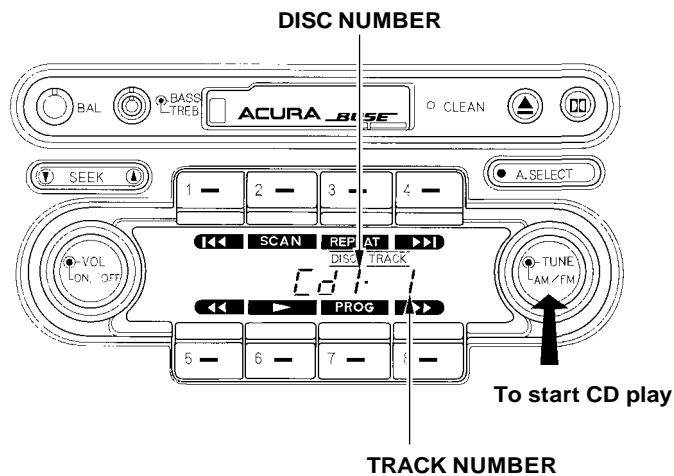
### Operating the CD Changer (Optional)

A trunk-mounted Compact Disc-changer is available for your car. It holds up to six discs, providing several hours of continuous programming. You operate the CD changer with the same controls used for the radio and cassette player.

Load the desired CD's in the magazine and load the magazine in the changer according to the instructions that came with the unit.

Turn on the audio system as described previously. Press the AM/FM button until "CD" appears in the display. The selected disc (1 — 6) and track, also displayed, will begin playing.

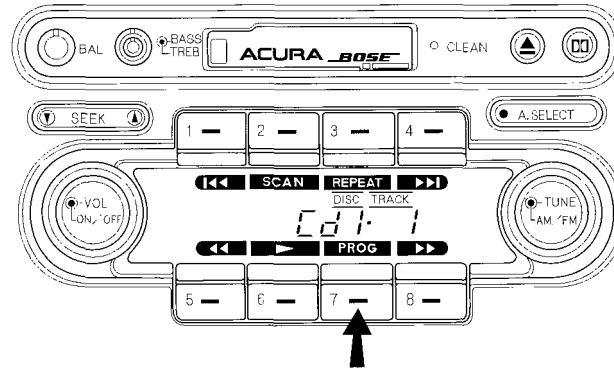
When that disc ends, the next disc in the magazine is loaded and played. When disc 6 has completed, the system will return to disc 1.





To select another disc, press PROG.  
The next CD in the changer is loaded and starts to play from the first track. The new CD and track numbers are displayed.

To return to the radio function, press the AM/FM button.  
To turn the system completely off, press the ON/OFF button.



**Press to change discs**

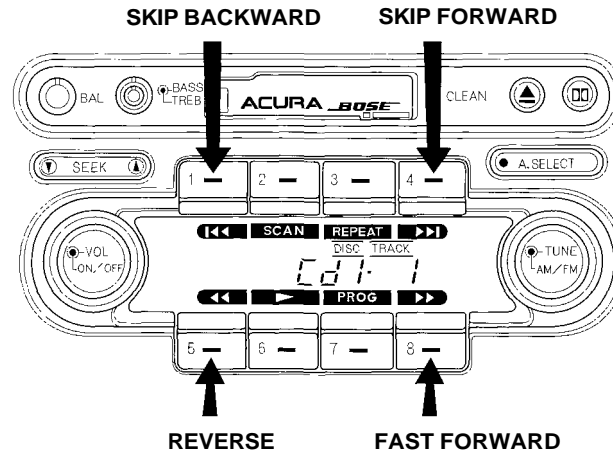
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## Audio System

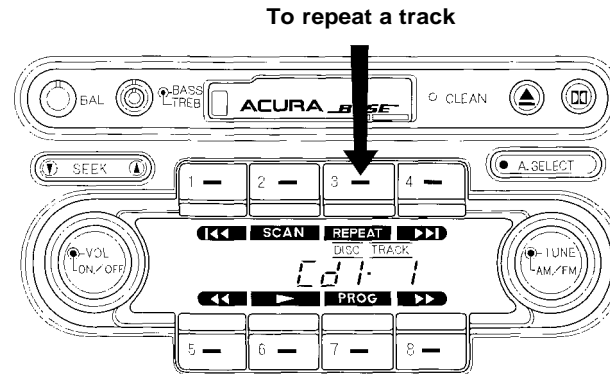
You can use the preset buttons while a CD is playing to select passages and change tracks.

To move rapidly within a track, press and hold the **▶▶** button to move forward or the **◀◀** button to move backward. The player will fast forward or reverse for as long as you hold the button. It goes to normal play mode when you release the button.

Each time you press **▶▶**, the system skips forward to the beginning of the next track on that CD. Pressing **◀◀** skips backward to the beginning of the current track.



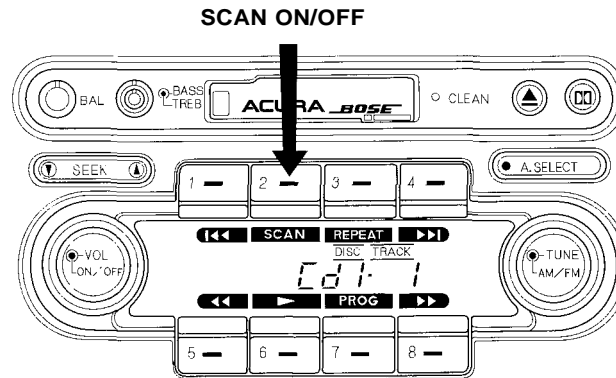
To replay the current track, press REPEAT. The indicator in the preset button will come on as a reminder. At the end of the track, the system skips back to its beginning. That track will repeat continuously until you cancel REPEAT by pressing the button again.



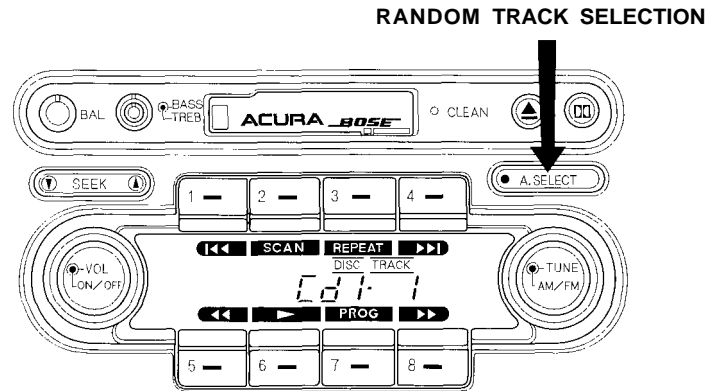
CONTINUED

## Audio System

To search for a particular program on a disc, press SCAN. The system will skip forward to the next track and begin to play it. If you do not touch any of the controls, the system skips to the beginning of the next track after ten seconds and begins to play that. When the system gets to a track you want to hear all the way through, press SCAN again. You can only scan tracks on the disc currently being played.

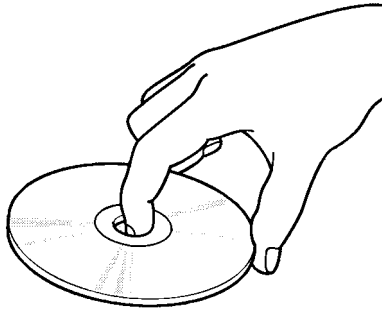


You can get the CD changer to randomly select tracks by pressing A. SELECT. The indicator in the button lights as a reminder. With this active, the system selects and plays tracks randomly rather than sequentially. Random selection only works on the disc currently playing, not across all six discs. Cancel random selection by pressing A. SELECT again. Random selection is also cancelled by selecting the SCAN function.

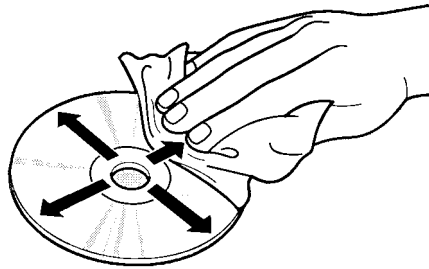


# Audio System

## Protecting Compact Discs

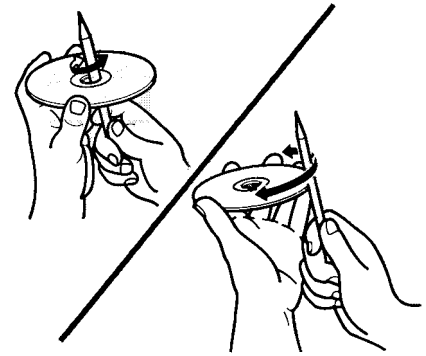


Handle a CD by its edges; never touch either surface. Contamination from fingerprints, liquids, felt-tip pens, and labels can cause the CD to not play properly, or possibly jam in the drive.



When a CD is not being played, store it in its case to protect it from dust and other contamination. To prevent warpage, keep CDs out of direct sunlight and extreme heat.

To clean a disc, use a clean soft cloth. Wipe across the disc from the center to the outside edge.



A new CD may be rough on the inner and outer edges. The small plastic pieces causing this roughness can flake off and fall on the recording surface of the disc, causing skipping or other problems. Remove these pieces by rubbing the inner and outer edges with the side of a pencil or pen.

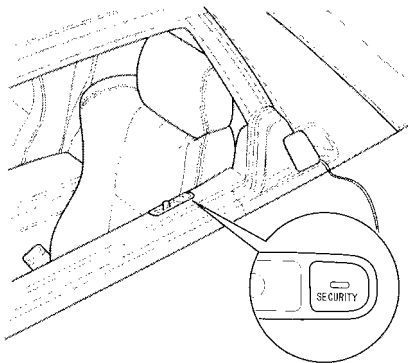
Never try to insert foreign objects in the CD player or the magazine.

## CD Error Indications

If you see an error indication in the display while operating the CD changer, find the cause in the chart to the right. If you cannot clear the error indication, take the car to your Acura dealer.

Indication	Cause	Solution
<i>E-01</i>	Disc-changer malfunction.	Consult your Acura dealer.
<i>E-02</i>	Disc is in changer mechanism.	Press the magazine eject button, and insert an empty magazine.
<i>E-03</i> <i>E-04</i> <i>E-05</i>	Disc-changer malfunction.	If the code disappears within a few seconds, unit is OK. If it does not, consult your Acura dealer.
<i>E-06</i>	Disc-changer malfunction.	Press the magazine eject button and pull out the magazine, check for error indication. Insert the magazine again. If the magazine can not be pulled out, consult your Acura dealer.
<i>E-07</i>	CD magazine ejection impossible.	Press the magazine eject button. If the magazine does not eject, consult your Acura dealer.
<i>---H</i>	High temperature.	Will disappear when the temperature returns to normal.
<i>E-EE</i>	Misconnection or disconnection of CD changer.	See your Acura dealer.
<i>----</i>	No CD magazine in the CD changer.	Insert CD magazine.

## Security System



The security system helps to protect your car and valuables from theft. The horn sounds, the headlights pop up, and all the exterior lights flash if someone attempts to break into your car or remove the radio. The system alarms continue for two minutes unless you turn it off manually. To turn the system off, unlock either door with the key.

The security system sets automatically fifteen seconds after you lock the doors, hood, rear window and trunk. For the system to activate, you must lock the doors from the outside with the key, lock tab, or door lock switch (see page 55). The security system light next to the driver's door lock starts blinking immediately to show you the system is setting itself.

Once the security system is set, opening either door (without the key), the hood, or the rear window will cause it to alarm. It also alarms if the radio is removed from the dashboard or the wiring is cut.

With the system set, you can still open the trunk with the master key without triggering the alarm. The alarm will sound if the trunk lock is forced or smashed, or the trunk is opened with the release button on the driver's door.

The security system does not set if the hood, rear window, trunk, or either door is not latched completely. If the system will not set, check the Door and Lamp Monitor on the instrument panel (see page 37), to see if the doors, rear window, and trunk are fully closed. Since it is not monitored, manually check the hood.



Before you begin driving your Acura, you should know what gasoline to use, and how to check the levels of important fluids. You also need to know how to properly store luggage or packages. The information in this section will help you. If you plan to add any accessories to your car, please read the information in this section first.

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Driving in Foreign Countries...	115
Service Station Procedures.....	116
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Opening the Engine Compartment.....	117
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## Break-in Period, Gasoline

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### Break-in Period

Help assure your car's future reliability and performance by paying extra attention to how you drive during the first 600 miles (1,000 km) During this period:

- Avoid full-throttle starts and rapid acceleration.  
Do not exceed 5,500 rpm for the first 600 miles (1,000 km) of operation.
- Avoid hard braking. New brakes need to be broken-in by moderate use for the first 200 miles (300 km).

You should follow these same recommendations with an overhauled or exchanged engine, or when the brakes are relined.

### Gasoline

Your NSX is designed to operate on premium unleaded gasoline with a pump octane number of 91 or higher.

If you are unable to find premium unleaded gasoline, you may substitute an unleaded regular gasoline. The engine will compensate for the lower octane, but you may notice a slight decrease in power as a result.

We recommend gasolines containing detergent additives that help prevent fuel system and engine deposits.

Using gasoline containing lead will damage your car's emission controls. This contributes to air pollution.

In Canada, some gasolines contain an octane-enhancing additive called MMT. If you use such gasolines, your emission control system performance may deteriorate and the Malfunction Indicator Lamp on your instrument panel may turn on. If this happens, contact your authorized Acura dealer for service.

### *Oxygenated Fuels*

Some conventional gasolines are being blended with alcohol or an ether compound. These gasolines are collectively referred to as oxygenated fuels. To meet clean air standards, some areas of the United States and Canada use oxygenated fuels to help reduce emissions.

If you use an oxygenated fuel, be sure it is unleaded and meets the minimum octane rating requirement.

Before using an oxygenated fuel, try to confirm the fuel's contents. Some states/provinces require this information to be posted on the pump.

The following are the EPA-approved percentages of oxygenates:

**ETHANOL** (ethyl or grain alcohol)  
You may use gasoline containing up to 10 percent ethanol by volume. Gasoline containing ethanol may be marketed under the name "Gasohol."

**MTBE** (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether)  
You may use gasoline containing up to 15 percent MTBE by volume.

**METHANOL** (methyl or wood alcohol)  
You may use gasoline containing up to 5 percent methanol by volume as long as it also contains cosolvents and corrosion inhibitors to protect the fuel system. Gasoline containing more than 5 percent methanol by volume may cause starting and/or performance problems. It may also damage metal, rubber and plastic parts of your fuel system.

If you notice any undesirable operating symptoms, try another service station or switch to another brand of gasoline.

Fuel system damage or performance problems resulting from the use of an oxygenated fuel containing more than the percentages of oxygenates given above are not covered under warranty.

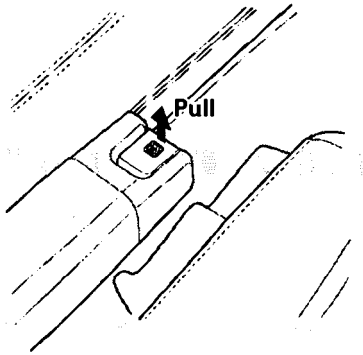
### ***Driving in Foreign Countries***

If you are planning to take your Acura outside the U.S. or Canada, contact the tourist bureaus in the areas you will be traveling in to find out about the availability of unleaded gasoline with the proper octane rating.

If unleaded gasoline is not available, be aware that using leaded gasoline in your Acura will affect performance and fuel mileage, and damage its emissions controls. It will no longer comply with U.S. and Canadian emissions regulations, and will be illegal to operate in North America. To bring your car back into compliance will require the replacement of several components, such as the oxygen sensors and the three way catalytic converter. These replacements are not covered under warranty.

## Service Station Procedures

### Filling the Fuel Tank

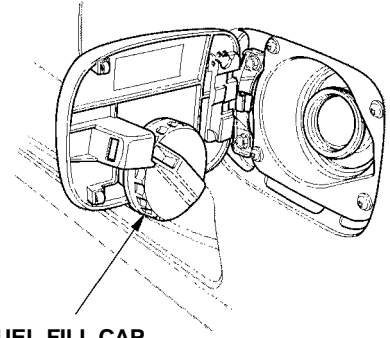


1. Because the fuel fill cap is on the driver's side of the car, park with that side closest to the service station pumps.
2. Open the fuel fill door by pulling on the handle to the left of the driver's seat.

### **WARNING**

Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive. You can be burned or seriously injured when handling fuel.

- Stop the engine and keep heat, sparks, and flame away.
- Handle fuel only outdoors.
- Wipe up spills immediately.



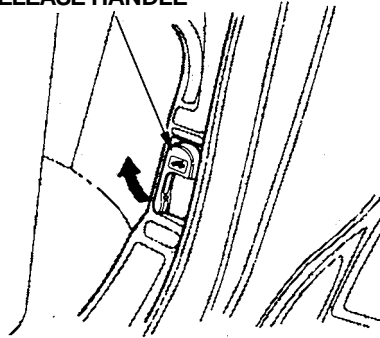
**FUEL FILL CAP**

3. Remove the fuel fill cap slowly. You may hear a hissing sound as pressure inside the tank escapes. Place the cap in the holder on the fuel fill door.

4. Stop filling the tank after the fuel pump automatically clicks off. Do not try to "top off" the tank, leave some room for the fuel to expand with temperature changes.
5. Screw the fuel fill cap back on, tighten it until it clicks. If you do not properly tighten the cap, the Malfunction Indicator Lamp may come on (see page [237](#)).
6. Push the fuel fill door closed until it latches.

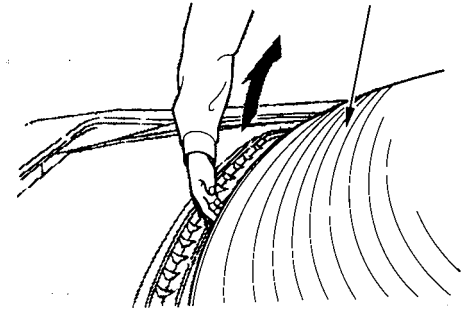
### Opening the Engine Compartment

RELEASE HANDLE



1. Shift to Park or Neutral and set the parking brake. Locate the release handle on the rear of the driver's door opening, next to the seat. Pivot this handle towards the driver's seat. The rear window will pop up slightly.

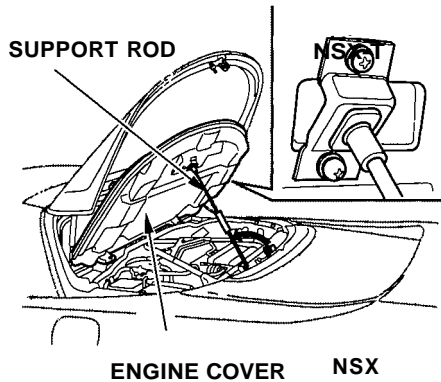
REAR WINDOW



2. Stand just behind the driver's door. Reach under the rear edge of the rear window at its center and raise it. It will stay up by itself.

CONTINUED

## Service Station Procedures

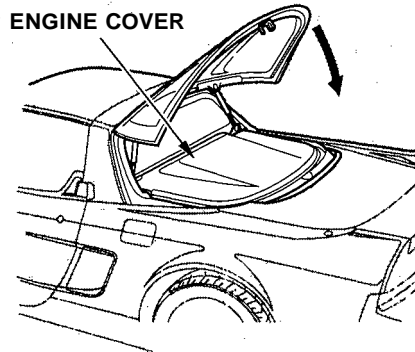


3. Lift the engine cover.

4. NSX-T

Pull the support rod out of its clip and insert the end into the square hole in the engine cover bracket. Except NSX-T

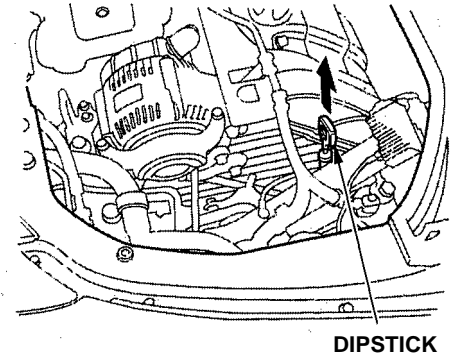
Pull the support rod out of its clip and insert the end into the square hole in the window latch bracket.



To Close the Rear Window:

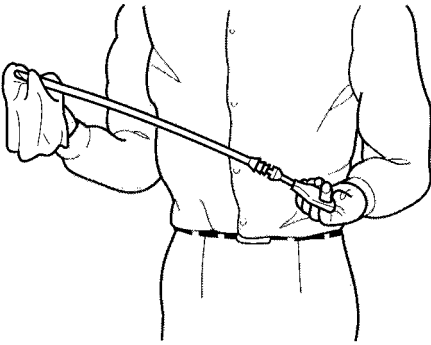
Snap the support rod back into the clip and lower the engine cover or roof holder. Pull the rear window down until it is resting on the body, then push on the center of the back edge until it latches. Make sure it is securely closed before driving away.

### Oil Check

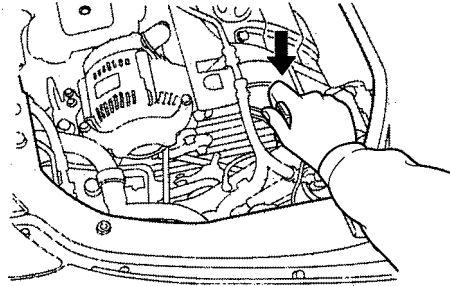


Check the engine oil level every time you fill the car with fuel. Wait at least two minutes after turning the engine off before you check the oil.

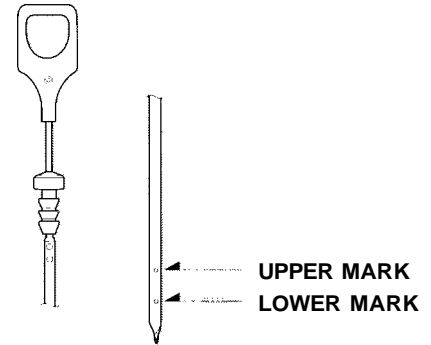
1. Remove the dipstick (orange handle).



2. Wipe the dipstick with a clean cloth or paper towel.



3. Insert it all the way back in its tube.



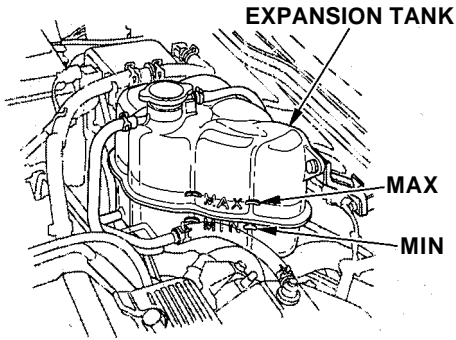
4. Remove the dipstick again and check the level. It should be between the upper and lower marks.

If it is near or below the lower mark, see **Adding Oil** on page [160](#).

*CONTINUED*

## Service Station Procedures

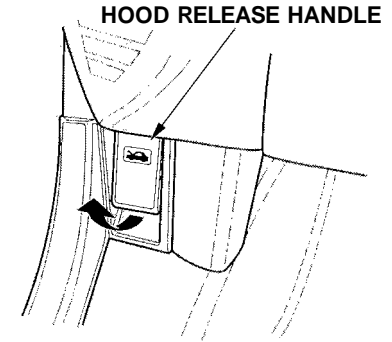
### Engine Coolant Check



Look at the coolant level in the expansion tank. Make sure it is between the MAX and MIN lines. If it is below the MIN line, see **Adding Engine Coolant** on page 164 for information on adding the proper coolant.

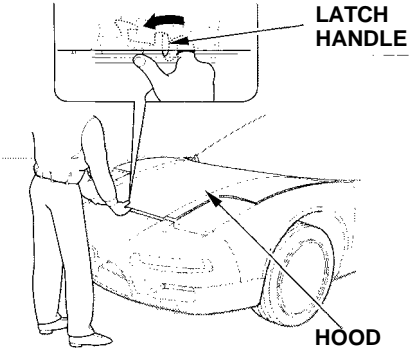
Refer to **Owner Maintenance Checks** on page 158 for information on checking other items in your Acura.

### Checking the Front Compartment

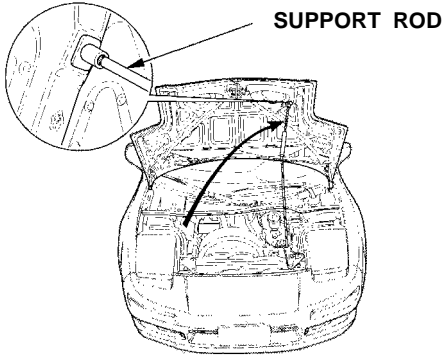


1. Shift to Park or Neutral and set the parking brake. Pull the hood release handle located under the lower left corner of the dashboard. The hood will pop up slightly.

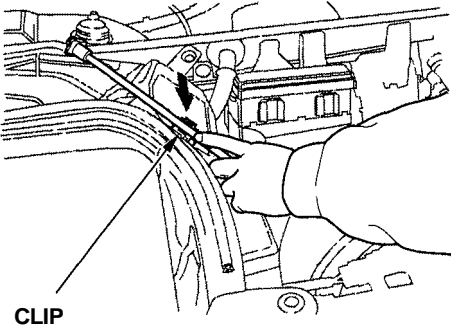




2. Standing in front of the car, put your fingers under the front edge of the hood to the right of center. Slide your hand to the left until you feel the hood latch handle. Push this handle to the left until it releases the hood. Lift the hood.



3. Pull the support rod out of its clip and insert the end into the square hole on the right side of the hood.  
4. To close the hood, lift it up slightly to remove the support rod from the hole.

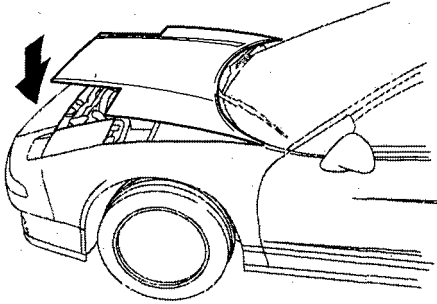


5. Snap the support rod back into its holding clip.

CONTINUED

## Service Station Procedures

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6. Lower the hood about halfway down and let the hood drop. Make sure the hood is securely latched.

Refer to **Maintenance** on pages [152](#) - [155](#) for instructions on how to check items under the hood.

The condition of your car and your driving habits are the two most important things that affect the fuel mileage you get.

### Vehicle Condition

Always maintain your car according to the maintenance schedule. This will keep it in top operating condition.

An important part of that maintenance is the **Owner Maintenance Checks** (see page 158 ). For example, an underinflated tire causes more "rolling resistance," which uses fuel. It also wears out faster, so check the tire pressure at least monthly.

In winter, the build-up of snow on your car's underside adds weight and rolling resistance. Frequent cleaning helps your fuel mileage and reduces the chance of corrosion.

### Driving Habits

You can improve fuel economy by driving moderately. Rapid acceleration, abrupt cornering, and hard braking use more fuel.

Always drive in the highest gear that allows the engine to run and accelerate smoothly.

Depending on traffic conditions, try to maintain a constant speed. Every time you slow down and speed up, your car uses extra fuel. Use the cruise control, when appropriate, to increase fuel economy.

A cold engine uses more fuel than a warm engine. It is not necessary to "warm-up" a cold engine by letting it idle for a long time. You can drive away in about a minute, no matter how cold it is outside. The engine will warm up faster, and you get better fuel economy. To cut down on the number of "cold starts," try to

combine several short trips into one.

The air conditioning puts an extra load on the engine which makes it use more fuel. Turn off the A/C or set the climate control to a higher temperature to cut down on air conditioning use. Use the flow-through ventilation when the outside air temperature is moderate.

## Accessories

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Your Acura dealer has many Genuine Acura Accessories that allow you to personalize your car. These have all been approved for installation and use on your car, and are covered by warranty.

Some non-Acura accessories you can buy in the "aftermarket" are designed for universal applications. Although they may fit your Acura, they may not be within factory specifications. For example, aftermarket wheels may not meet Acura's specifications for width and offset. They could cause suspension problems which would not be covered by your warranty. Improperly-designed accessories can adversely affect your car's handling and stability.

Your car has several computer-controlled systems, including the SRS system, the engine's fuel injection, and the Anti-lock brake system. Strong electronic interference can affect their operation.

Electronic communications equipment, such as cellular telephones and two-way radios are regulated by the FCC (DOC in Canada) and should not interfere with your car's systems. Improper installation, or using electrical equipment not intended for mobile use may interfere with your car's operation. If you want to install a cellular telephone, other mobile communications equipment or even add-on stereo amplifiers, please discuss it first with your Acura dealer.

In many cases, improper installation is the real cause of problems with aftermarket accessories. Have these accessories installed by qualified technicians who are familiar with your Acura. If possible, have your Acura dealer inspect the final installation.

The maximum load you can carry in your Acura is 400 lbs (185 kg). It includes the total weight of the driver, the passenger, their belongings, and any accessories. This 400 lbs (185 kg) figure is shown as the Vehicle Capacity Weight on the tire information label attached to the driver's doorjamb.

To figure out how much cargo you can carry:

- Figure the total "occupant weight" you will be transporting. To do this, multiply the number of people (driver and passenger) by 150 lbs (70 kg).
- Subtract this number from the Vehicle Capacity Weight (400 lbs/185 kg).

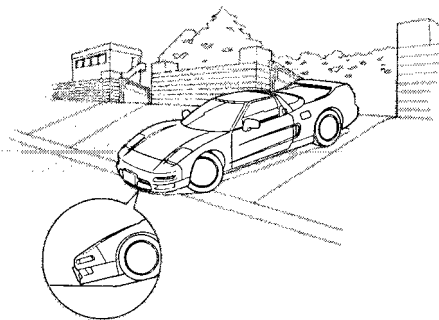
This final number is the total weight of cargo you can load in or on the car. With two occupants (a driver and a passenger), the maximum recommended weight for cargo is 100 lbs (45 kg).

Where you store this cargo, and how well you secure it, are just as important as how much it weighs. Make sure you load cargo so it will not shift while driving. Items stored in the cargo area should be stored as far forward as possible.

## General Precautions

Your NSX is designed to give you optimum handling and performance on well-maintained roads. As part of this design, your car has a minimum of ground clearance and very low-profile tires.

- Use caution if you should drive your car on very rough or rutted roads. You could damage the suspension and underbody by bottoming out. Going too fast over parking lot "speed bumps" can also cause damage.



- Curbs and steep inclines could damage the front and rear bumpers. Low curbs that do not affect the average sedan may be high enough to hit the bumper on your NSX. The front or rear bumper may scrape when trying to drive onto an incline, such as a steep driveway or trailer ramps.

- Because of the low-profile tires fitted to your car, the alloy wheels are closer to the ground. Driving over a pothole or road debris at too high a speed can seriously damage a wheel. Slow down under these conditions.

This section gives you tips on starting the engine under various conditions, and how to operate the manual and automatic transmissions. It also includes important information on parking your car, the braking system, the Traction Control System.

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## Preparing to Drive

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You should do the following checks and adjustments every day before you drive your car.

1. Make sure all windows, mirrors, and outside lights are clean and unobstructed. Remove frost, snow, or ice.
2. Check that the hood, trunk and rear window are fully closed.
3. Visually check the tires. If a tire looks low, use a gauge to check its pressure.
4. Check that any items you may be carrying with you inside are stored properly or fastened down securely.
5. Check the adjustment of the seat (see page [58](#)).
6. Check the adjustment of the inside and outside mirrors (see page [67](#)).
7. Check the adjustment of the steering wheel (see page [47](#)).
8. Make sure the doors are securely closed and locked.
9. Fasten your seat belt. Check that your passenger has fastened his seat belt (see page [6](#)).
10. Turn the ignition switch ON (II). Check the indicator lights in the instrument panel.
11. Start the engine (see page [129](#)).
12. Check the gauges and indicator lights in the instrument panel (see page [34](#)).



1. Apply the parking brake.
2. In cold weather, turn off all electrical accessories to reduce the drain on the battery.
3. *Manual Transmission:*  
Push the clutch pedal down all the way. START (III) does not function unless the clutch pedal is depressed.  
  
*Automatic Transmission:*  
Make sure the shift lever is in Park. Press on the brake pedal.
4. Without touching the accelerator pedal, turn the ignition key to the START (III) position. If the engine does not start right away, do not hold the key in START (III) for more than 15 seconds at a time. Pause for at least 10 seconds before trying again.
5. If the engine does not start within

15 seconds, or starts but stalls right away, repeat step 4 with the accelerator pedal pressed half-way down. If the engine starts, release pressure on the accelerator pedal so the engine does not race.

6. If the engine still does not start, press the accelerator pedal all the way down and hold it there while starting in order to clear flooding. As before, keep the ignition key in the START (III) position for no more than 15 seconds. Return to step 5 if the engine does not start. If it starts, lift your foot off the accelerator pedal so the engine does not race.

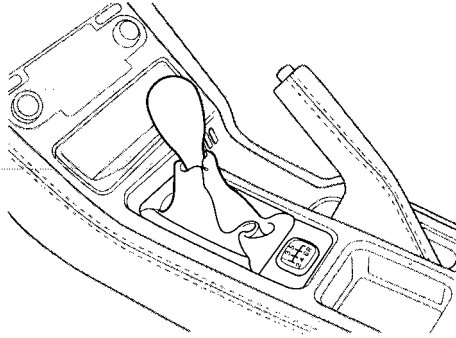
### **Starting in Cold Weather at High Altitude (Above 8,000 feet/ 2,400 meters)**

An engine is harder to start in cold weather. The thinner air found at high altitude above 8,000 feet (2,400 meters) adds to the problem.

Use the following procedure:

1. Turn off all electrical accessories to reduce the drain on the battery.
2. Push the accelerator pedal half-way to the floor and hold it there while starting the engine. Do not hold the ignition key in START (III) for more than 15 seconds. When the engine starts, release the accelerator pedal gradually as the engine speeds up and smooths out.
3. If the engine fails to start in step 2, push the accelerator pedal to the floor and hold it there while you try to start the engine for no more than 15 seconds. If the engine does not start, return to step 2.

## 6-speed Manual Transmission



The manual transmission is synchronized in all forward gears for smooth operation. It has a lockout so you cannot shift directly from Fifth to Reverse instead of sixth (see page 131). When shifting up or down, make sure you push the clutch pedal down all the way, shift to the next gear, and let the pedal up gradually. When you are not shifting, do not rest your foot on the clutch pedal. This can cause your clutch to wear out faster.

Come to a full stop before you shift into Reverse. You can damage the transmission by trying to shift into Reverse with the car moving. Push down the clutch pedal, and pause for a few seconds before shifting into Reverse, or shift into one of the forward gears for a moment. This stops the gears so they won't "grind".

When slowing down, you can get extra braking from the engine by shifting to a lower gear. This extra braking can help you maintain a safe speed and prevent your brakes from overheating while going down a steep hill. Before downshifting, make sure engine speed will not go into the tachometer's red zone in the lower gear. Refer to the Maximum Speeds chart.

### **WARNING**

Rapid slowing or speeding-up can cause loss of control on slippery surfaces. If you crash, you can be injured.

Use extra care when driving on slippery surfaces.

### Recommended Shift Points

Drive in the highest gear that lets the engine run and accelerate smoothly. This will give you the best fuel economy and effective emissions control. The following shift points are recommended:

Shift Up	Normal Acceleration
1st to 2nd	15 mph (24 km/h)
2nd to 3rd	25 mph (40 km/h)
3rd to 4th	40 mph (64 km/h)
4th to 5th	47 mph (75 km/h)
5th to 6th	52 mph (83 km/h)

### Maximum Speeds

The speeds in this table are the maximums for the given gears. If you exceed these speeds, the engine speed will enter into the tachometer's red zone. If this occurs, you may feel the engine cut in and out. This is caused by a limiter in the engine's computer controls. The engine will run normally when you reduce the RPM below the red zone.

Gear	Maximum Speeds
1st	45 mph (72 km/h)
2nd	70 mph (113 km/h)
3rd	97 mph (155 km/h)
4th	123 mph (197 km/h)
5th	152 mph (243 km/h)
6th	Top Speed

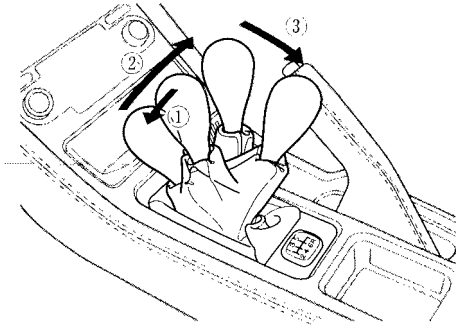
### Reverse Lockout

The 6-speed manual transmission has an electric lockout so you cannot accidentally shift from Fifth to Reverse instead of Sixth. If you cannot shift to Reverse when the car is stopped:

*CONTINUED*

## 6-speed Manual Transmission

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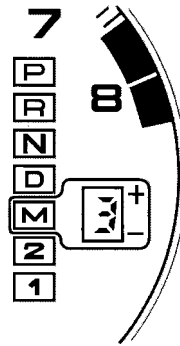
1. With the clutch pedal depressed, move the shift lever to the First/Second gear side of the Neutral gate, then shift to Reverse.

2. If you are still unable to shift to Reverse, apply the parking brake and turn the ignition key to ACCESSORY (I) or LOCK (0).
3. Depress the clutch pedal and shift to Reverse.
4. With the clutch pedal still depressed, start the engine.

If you need to use this procedure to shift to Reverse, your car may be developing a problem. Have the car checked by your Acura dealer.

Your Acura's transmission has four forward speeds, and is electronically controlled for smoother shifting. It also has a "lock-up" torque converter for better fuel economy. You may feel what seems like another shift when the converter locks.

### Shift Lever Position Indicator

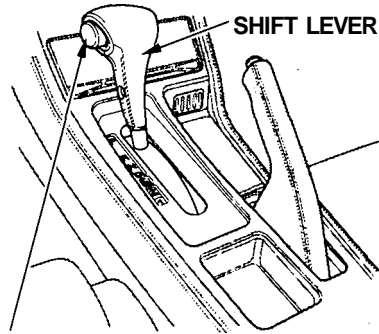


This display is in the tachometer. It shows you the position of the console shift lever. The illuminated number next to the "M" indicator shows you the gear you have selected when selecting 3/M position.

The "D4" indicator comes on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch ON (II). If it flashes while driving (in any shift position), it indicates a possible problem in the transmission. Avoid rapid acceleration and have the transmission checked by an authorized Acura dealer as soon as possible.

# Automatic Transmission

## Shift Lever Positions

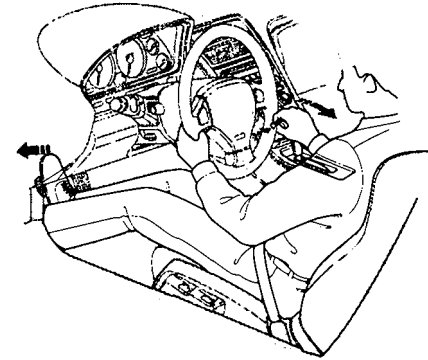


RELEASE BUTTON

The console shift lever has seven positions. It must be in Park or Neutral to start the engine.

The shift lever on the steering column's right pod allows you to shift up and down manually when the console shift lever is in the "3/M" position.

To shift from:	Do this:
P to R	Press the brake pedal and push the release button.
R to P N to R 3/M to 2 2 to 1	Push the release button.
1 to 2 2 to 3/M 3/M to D D to N D to 3/M N to D R to N	Move the lever.



**Park (P)** — This position mechanically locks the transmission. Use Park whenever you are turning off or starting the engine. To shift out of Park, you must press on the brake pedal and have your foot off the accelerator pedal. Press the release button on the side of the shift lever to move it.

If you have done all of the above and still cannot move the lever out of Park, see Shift Lock Release on page 138.

You must also press the release button to shift into Park. To avoid transmission damage, come to a complete stop before shifting into Park. The shift lever must be in Park before you can remove the key from the ignition switch.

**Reverse (R)** — To shift to Reverse from Park, see the explanation under Park. To shift to Reverse from Neutral, come to a complete stop and then shift. Press the release button before shifting into Reverse from Neutral.

**Neutral (N)** — Use Neutral if you need to restart a stalled engine, or if it is necessary to stop briefly with the engine idling. Shift to Park position if you need to leave the car for any reason. Press on the brake pedal when you are moving the shift lever from Neutral to another gear.

**Drive (D)** — Use this position for your normal driving. The transmission automatically selects a suitable gear for your speed and acceleration. You may notice the transmission shifting up at higher speeds when the engine is cold. This helps the engine warm up faster.

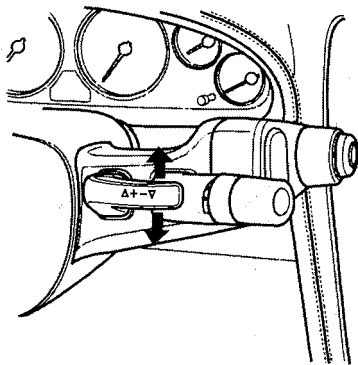
Press firmly on the brake pedal when you are stopped in Drive, 3/M, 2, 1, N or Reverse. Never press on the accelerator pedal at the same time.

For faster acceleration when passing, you can get the transmission to automatically downshift by pushing the accelerator pedal to the floor. The transmission will shift down to a lower gear.

*CONTINUED*

## Automatic Transmission

**Manual (3/M)** — With the console shift lever in this position, you can use the manual shift lever on the right pod to shift gears; much like a manual transmission without a clutch pedal. Each time you push up on the manual shift lever, the transmission will shift up to the next higher gear. Push down on the lever to downshift. The number of the selected gear is displayed next to the "M" indicator (See page [133](#) ).



If you move the console shift lever from "D" to "3/M" while the car is moving, the transmission remains in the gear it was in. If you do this while stopped, the transmission selects first gear.

When you accelerate away from a stop, the transmission will be in first gear. If you do not manually upshift to second gear, the transmission will automatically upshift when the engine reaches redline, or when you reduce pressure on the accelerator pedal. It will remain in second gear until you either upshift manually or come to a stop.

The transmission remains in the selected gear (4, 3, or 2). There is no automatic downshift when you push the accelerator pedal to the floor. The only time it will shift automatically is when the car comes to almost a complete stop. It will then downshift to first gear.

If you try to manually downshift at a speed that would cause the engine to exceed the redline in the lower gear, the transmission will not downshift. If that downshift is from second gear to first gear, the gear indicator will flash " 1 " several times, then return to "2".



## Automatic Transmission

When manually downshifting from second gear to first gear below redline, you must depress the accelerator pedal to get the transmission to downshift. If you do not, the gear indicator will flash as described. This is not necessary when downshifting in any of the other gears.

**Second (2)** — This position locks the transmission in second gear. It does not downshift to first gear when you come to a stop. Second gives you more power when climbing, and increased engine braking when going down steep hills. Use second gear when starting out on a slippery surface or in deep snow. It will help reduce wheelspin.

Whenever you move either shift lever to a lower gear, the transmission downshifts only if the engine's redline will not be exceeded in the lower gear.

**First (1)** — To shift from Second to First, press the release button on the shift lever. With the lever in this position, the transmission locks in First gear.

### Maximum Speeds

The speeds in this table are the maximums for the given position. If you exceed these speeds, the engine speed will enter into the tachometer's red zone. If this occurs, you will feel the engine cut in and out. This is caused by a limiter in the engine's computer controls. The engine will run normally when you reduce the RPM below the red zone.

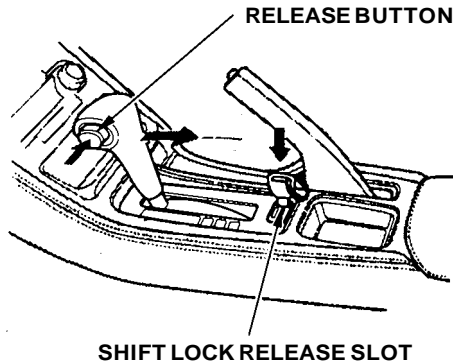
Position	Maximum Speeds	
D	Top Speed	
3/M	4	Top Speed
	3	117mph(187km/h)
	2	77mph(123km/h)
2	77mph(123km/h)	
1	45mph(72km/h)	

## Automatic Transmission

### Shift Lock Release

This allows you to move the shift lever out of Park if the normal method of pushing on the brake pedal and pressing the release button does not work.

1. Set the Parking brake.
2. Remove the key from the ignition switch.



3. Insert the key in the Shift Lock Release slot next to the shift lever.
4. Push down on the key while you press the release button and move the shift lever out of Park to Neutral.

5. Remove the key from the Shift Lock Release slot. Depress the brake pedal and restart the engine.

If you need to use the Shift Lock Release, it means your car is developing a problem. Have the car checked by your Acura dealer.

Always use the parking brake when you park your vehicle. The indicator on the instrument panel shows that the parking brake is not fully released; it does not indicate that the parking brake is firmly set. Make sure the parking brake is set firmly or your vehicle may roll if it is parked on an incline.

If your vehicle has an automatic transmission, set the parking brake before you put the transmission in Park. This keeps the vehicle from moving and putting pressure on the parking mechanism in the transmission — making it easier to move the shift lever out of Park when you want to drive away.

If the vehicle is facing uphill, turn the front wheels away from the curb. If the vehicle is facing downhill, turn the front wheels toward the curb.

Make sure the parking brake is fully released before driving away. Driving with the parking brake partially set can overheat or damage the rear brakes, and will cause the ABS indicator to light.

### Parking Tips

- Make sure the moonroof and the windows are closed.
- Turn off the lights.
- Place any packages, valuables, etc., in the trunk or take them with you.
- Lock the doors with the key or the remote transmitter. Check the indicator on the driver's door to verify that the security system is set.
- Never park over dry leaves, tall grass, or other flammable materials. The three way catalytic converter gets very hot, and could cause these materials to catch on fire.

# The Braking System

---

Your Acura is equipped with disc brakes at all four wheels. A power assist helps reduce the effort needed on the brake pedal. The ABS helps you retain steering control when braking very hard.

Put your foot on the brake pedal only when you intend to brake. Resting your foot on the pedal keeps the brakes applied lightly, causing them to build up heat. Heat build-up can reduce how well your brakes work. It also keeps your brake lights on all the time, confusing drivers behind you.

Constant application of the brakes when going down a long hill builds up heat and reduces their effectiveness. Use the engine to assist the brakes by downshifting to a lower gear and taking your foot off the accelerator pedal.

Check your brakes after driving through deep water. Apply the brakes moderately to see if they feel normal. If not, apply them gently and frequently until they do. Since a longer distance is needed to stop with wet brakes, be extra cautious and alert in your driving.

## **Brake Wear Indicators**

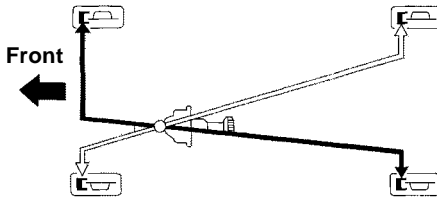
All four brakes have audible brake wear indicators.

When the brake pads need replacing, you will hear a distinctive metallic "screeching" sound when you apply the brakes. If you do not have the brake pads replaced, they will begin screeching all the time.

Your brakes may sometimes squeal or squeak when you apply them lightly. Do not confuse this with the brake wear indicators. They make a very audible "screeching".

## Brake System Design

The hydraulic system that operates the brakes has two separate circuits. Each circuit works diagonally across the car (the left-front brake is connected with the right-rear brake, etc.). If one circuit should develop a problem, you will still have braking at two wheels.



If this happens, you will immediately notice that the brake pedal goes down much farther and you need to press on it much harder. A much longer distance will be needed to stop the car.

Slow the car by downshifting to a lower gear and removing your foot from the accelerator pedal. Pull to the side of the road as soon as it is safe. Because of the longer stopping distance needed, brake system failure is very hazardous. You should have your car towed, but if you must drive the car in this condition, be extremely cautious. Have your car repaired as soon as possible.

## Anti-lock Brakes

Your car has an Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) as standard equipment. ABS helps to prevent the wheels from locking up and skidding during hard braking, allowing you to retain steering control.

When the front tires skid, you lose steering control; the car continues straight ahead even though you turn the steering wheel. The ABS helps to prevent lock-up and helps you retain steering control by pumping the brakes rapidly; much faster than a person can do it.

*CONTINUED*

## The Braking System

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**You should never pump the brake pedal**, this defeats the purpose of the ABS. Let the ABS work for you by always keeping firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal as you steer away from the hazard. This is sometimes referred to as "*stomp and steer.*"

You will feel a pulsation in the brake pedal when the ABS activates, and you may hear some noise. This is normal, it is the ABS rapidly pumping the brakes.

Activation varies with the amount of traction your tires have. On dry pavement, you will need to press on the brake pedal very hard before you activate the ABS. However, you may feel the ABS activate immediately if you are trying to stop on snow or ice.

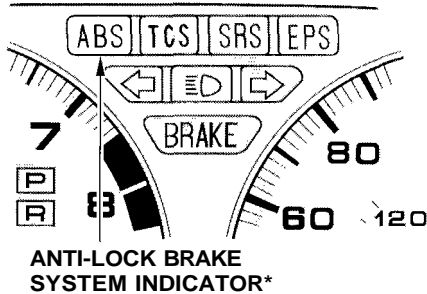
**Important Safety Reminders**  
**ABS does not reduce the time or distance it takes to stop the car**, it only helps with steering control during braking. You should always maintain a safe following distance from other vehicles.

**ABS will not prevent a skid that results from changing direction abruptly**, such as trying to take a corner too fast or making a sudden lane change. Always drive at a safe, prudent speed for the road and weather conditions.

**ABS cannot prevent a loss of stability.** Always steer moderately when you are braking hard. Severe or sharp steering wheel movement can still cause your vehicle to veer into oncoming traffic or off the road.

**A vehicle with ABS may require a longer distance to stop** on loose or uneven surfaces, such as gravel or snow, than a vehicle without anti-lock. Slow down and allow a greater distance between vehicles under those conditions.

## ABS Indicator



\* U.S. indicator shown

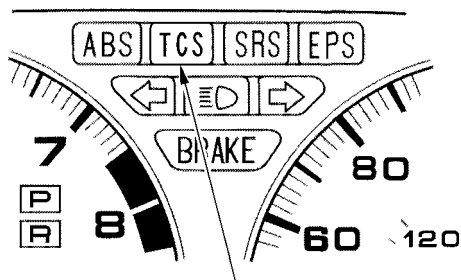
The ABS is self-checking. You may feel a slight movement of the brake pedal just after you start the engine. This is the ABS performing a check. It also checks itself whenever you use the brakes.

If anything goes wrong, the ABS indicator on the instrument panel comes on (see page 36). This means the anti-lock function of the braking system has shut down. The brakes still work like a conventional system without anti-lock, providing normal stopping ability. You should have the dealer inspect your vehicle as soon as possible if this light stays on after you start the engine, or comes on while driving.

## Traction Control System

Your Acura is equipped with a Traction Control System (TCS). TCS assists you in maintaining traction while accelerating on slippery surfaces. It does this by regulating the engine's power output when it senses either of the drive wheels starting to spin. This increases the car's traction and directional stability on loose or slippery road surfaces.

Driving with TCS requires no special skills or technique. The TCS does not affect braking, and cannot prevent skidding if you enter a corner too fast. It is still your responsibility to drive at reasonable speeds and to leave a sufficient margin of safety.



TCS INDICATOR LIGHT

When driving on a loose or slippery road surface, you may notice that the engine does not respond to the accelerator in the same way it does at other times. This is a sign the TCS is activating. You will see the TCS indicator light flash.

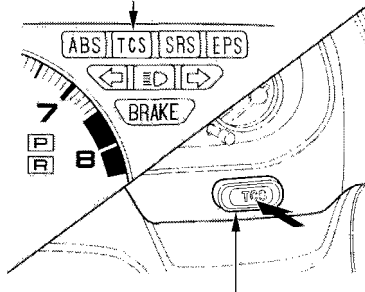
You should still install winter tires on your car during the winter. Exercise the same caution in winter driving as you would if your car was not equipped with TCS.

Driving with the folding spare tire (see page 225) installed may activate the TCS. You may want to turn the system off under this condition.



## TCS ON/OFF Switch

### TCS INDICATOR LIGHT



### TCS ON/OFF SWITCH

This switch is on the dashboard behind the right control pod. It lets you turn the Traction Control System on and off. You cannot turn off the TCS while the TCS indicator light is flashing.

Deactivate the system by pressing the TCS On/Off switch. The TCS indicator light comes on. Pressing the switch again turns the system back on.

The Traction Control System turns on every time you start the engine, even if you turned it off the last time you drove the car.

## TCS Indicator

The TCS indicator comes on or flashes under the following conditions:

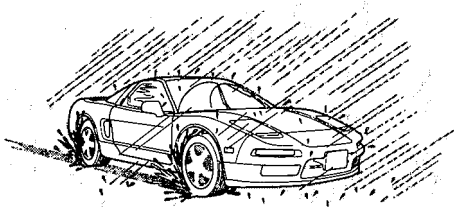
- When you turn the ignition switch to ON (II).
- When you manually turn off the TCS.
- It flashes when the TCS is regulating the engine output to prevent wheelspin.
- If the system's diagnostics senses a problem in the TCS, the indicator will come on and stay on.

If the TCS indicator comes on while driving, pull to the side of the road when it is safe and turn off the engine. Reset the system by restarting the engine, and watch the TCS indicator. If the indicator remains on, or comes back on while driving, have the TCS inspected by your Acura dealer. You can still drive the car without TCS.

The TCS indicator may occasionally come on for one or two seconds and then go out. This is normal.

## Driving in Bad Weather

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Rain, fog, and snow conditions require a different driving technique because of reduced traction and visibility. Keep your car well-maintained and exercise greater caution when you need to drive in bad weather. The cruise control should not be used in these conditions.

**Driving Technique** — Always drive slower than you would in dry weather. It takes your car longer to react, even in conditions that may seem just barely damp. Apply smooth, even pressure to all the controls. Abrupt steering wheel movements or sudden, hard application of the brakes can cause loss of control in wet weather. Be extra cautious for the first few miles (kilometers) of driving while you adjust to the change in driving conditions. This is especially true in snow. A person can forget some snow-driving techniques during the summer months. Practice is needed to relearn those skills.

Exercise extra caution when driving in rain after a long dry spell. After months of dry weather, the first rains bring oil to the surface of the roadway, making it slippery.

**Visibility** — Being able to see clearly in all directions and being visible to other drivers are important in all weather conditions. This is more difficult in bad weather. To be seen more clearly during daylight hours, turn on your headlights.

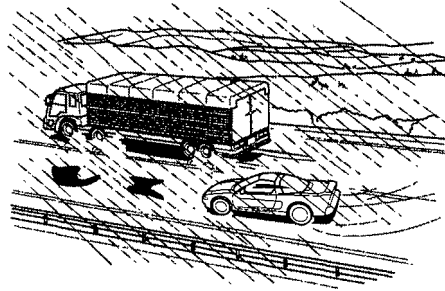
Inspect your windshield wipers and washers frequently. Keep the windshield washer reservoir full of the proper fluid. Have the windshield wiper blades replaced if they start to streak the windshield or leave parts unwiped. Use the defrosters and air conditioning to keep the windows from fogging up on the inside (see page 77).

## Driving in Bad Weather, Towing a Trailer

**Traction** — Check your tires frequently for wear and proper pressure. Both are important in preventing "hydroplaning" (loss of traction on a wet surface). In the winter, mount snow tires on all four wheels for the best handling.

Watch road conditions carefully, they can change from moment to moment. Wet leaves can be as slippery as ice. "Clear" roads can have patches of ice. Driving conditions can be very hazardous when the outside temperature is near freezing. The road surface can become covered with areas of water puddles mixed with areas of ice, so your traction can change without warning.

Be careful when downshifting. If traction is low, you can lock up the drive wheels for a moment and cause a skid.



Be very cautious when passing, or being passed by other vehicles. The spray from large vehicles reduces your visibility, and the wind buffeting can cause you to lose control.

### **Towing a Trailer**

Your NSX is not designed to tow a trailer. Attempting to do so can void your warranties.

This section explains why it is important to keep your car well maintained and to follow basic maintenance safety precautions.

This section also includes Maintenance Schedules for normal driving and severe driving conditions, a Maintenance Record, and instructions for simple maintenance tasks you may want to take care of yourself.

If you have the skills and tools required to perform more complex maintenance tasks on your Acura, you may want to purchase the Service Manual. See page 267 for information on how to obtain a copy, or see your Acura dealer.

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## Maintenance Safety

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Regularly maintaining your car is the best way to protect your investment. Proper maintenance is essential to your safety and the safety of your passengers. It will also reward you with more economical, trouble-free driving and help reduce air pollution.

### **WARNING**

Improperly maintaining this car or failing to correct a problem before driving can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Always follow the inspection and maintenance recommendations and schedules in this owner's manual.

This section includes instructions for simple maintenance tasks, such as checking and adding oil. Any service items not detailed in this section should be performed by an Acura technician or other qualified mechanic.

Some of the most important safety precautions are given here. However, we cannot warn you of every conceivable hazard that can arise in performing maintenance. Only you can decide whether or not you should perform a given task.

### **WARNING**

Failure to properly follow maintenance instructions and precautions can cause you to be seriously hurt or killed.

Always follow the procedures and precautions in this owner's manual.

### **Important Safety Precautions**

Before you begin any maintenance, make sure your car is parked on level ground and that the parking brake is set. Also, be sure the engine is off. This will help to eliminate several potential hazards:

- **Carbon monoxide poisoning from engine exhaust.** Be sure there is adequate ventilation whenever you operate the engine.
- **Burns from hot parts.** Let the engine and exhaust system cool before touching any parts.
- **Injury from moving parts.** Do not run the engine unless instructed to do so.

Read the instructions before you begin, and make sure you have the tools and skills required.

To reduce the possibility of fire or explosion, be careful when working around gasoline or batteries. Use a nonflammable solvent, not gasoline, to clean parts. Keep cigarettes, sparks, and flames away from the battery and all fuel-related parts.

You should wear eye protection and protective clothing when working near the battery or when using compressed air.

## Maintenance Schedule

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The Maintenance Schedule specifies how often you should have your car serviced and what things need attention. It is essential that you have your car serviced as scheduled to retain its high level of safety, dependability, and emission control performance.

The services and time or distance intervals shown in the maintenance schedule assume you will use your car as normal transportation for your passenger and possessions. You should also follow these recommendations:

- Avoid exceeding your car's load limit. This puts excess stress on the engine, brakes, and many other parts of your car. The load limit is shown on the label on the driver's doorjamb.
- Operate your car on reasonable roads within the legal speed limit.
- Drive your car regularly over a distance of several miles (kilometers).
- Always use unleaded gasoline with the proper octane rating (see page [105](#)).

### **Which Schedule to Follow:**

Service your car according to the time and mileage periods on one of the Maintenance Schedules on the following pages. Select the schedule for "Severe Conditions" if most of your driving is done under one or more of the conditions listed on that page. Otherwise, follow the schedule for "Normal Conditions."

Your authorized Acura dealer knows your car best and can provide competent, efficient service. However, service at a dealer is not mandatory to keep your warranties in effect. Maintenance may be done by any qualified service facility or person who is skilled in this type of automotive service. Keep all the receipts as proof of completion, and have the person who does the work fill out the Maintenance Record. Check your warranty booklet for more information.

We recommend the use of Genuine Honda parts and fluids whenever you have maintenance done. These are manufactured to the same high-quality standards as the original components, so you can be confident of their performance and durability.

U.S. Cars:

**Maintenance, replacement or repair of emission control devices and systems may be done by any automotive repair establishment or individual using parts that are "certified" to EPA standards.**

According to state and federal regulations, failure to perform maintenance on the items marked with an asterisk (\*) will not void your emissions warranties. However, Acura recommends that all maintenance services be performed at the recommended time or mileage period to ensure long-term reliability.



## Maintenance Schedule (Normal Conditions)

Service at the indicated distance or time whichever comes first.	miles x 1,000	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120
	km x 1,000	24	48	72	96	120	144	168	192
	months	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96
Replace engine oil	Replace every 7,500 miles (12,000 km) or 12 months								
Replace engine oil filter	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Check engine oil and coolant	Check oil and coolant at each fuel stop								
Replace air cleaner element		•		•		•		•	•
Inspect valve clearance		•				•			
Replace spark plugs								•	
Replace timing belt and inspect water pump								•	
Inspect and adjust drive belts		•			•		•		•
Replace fuel filter*					•				•
Inspect idle speed								•	
Replace engine coolant				•		•		•	
Replace transmission fluid							•		
Inspect front and rear brakes	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Replace brake fluid (including ABS)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Check parking brake adjustment	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Check tire inflation and condition at least once per month	Every 7,500 miles (12,000 km)								
<b>Visually inspect the following items:</b>									
Tie rod ends, steering gear box, and boots									
Suspension components									
Driveshaft boots									
Brake hoses and lines (including ABS)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
All fluid levels and condition of fluids									
Cooling system hoses and connections									
Exhaust system*									
Fuel lines and connections†									
Inspect supplemental restraint system	10 years after production								

Follow the Normal Maintenance Schedule if the severe driving conditions specified in the Severe Conditions Maintenance Schedule on the next page do not apply.

**NOTE:** If you only *OCCASIONALLY* drive under a "severe" condition, you should follow the Normal Conditions Maintenance Schedule.

## Maintenance Schedule (Severe Conditions)

Service at the indicated distance or time whichever comes first.	miles x 1,000	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120
	km x 1,000	24	48	72	96	120	144	168	192
	months	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96
Replace engine oil and oil filter	Replace every 3,750 miles (6,000 km) or 6 months								
Check engine oil and coolant	Check oil and coolant at each fuel stop								
Clean (☉) or replace (●) air cleaner element	Clean: every 7,500 miles (12,000 km) or 6 months								
Use normal schedule except in dusty conditions	Replace: every 30,000 miles (48,000 km) or 24 months								
Inspect valve clearance			●				●		
Replace spark plugs								●	●
Replace timing belt* <sup>1</sup> and inspect water pump								●	●
Inspect and adjust drive belts		●			●		●		●
Replace fuel filter <sup>1</sup>					●				●
Inspect idle speed								●	●
Replace engine coolant				●		●		●	●
Replace transmission fluid		●			●		●		●
Inspect front and rear brakes	Inspect every 7,500 miles (12,000 km) or 6 months								
Replace brake fluid (including ABS)			●						
Check parking brake adjustment	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lubricate locks and hinges	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Clean antenna must	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check tire inflation and condition at least once per month	Every 7,500 miles (12,000 km)								
<b>Visually inspect the following items:</b>									
Tie rod ends, steering gear box, and boots	Every 7,500 miles (12,000 km) or 6 months								
Suspension components, Driveshaft boots									
Brake hoses and lines (including ABS)									
All fluid levels and condition of fluids									
Cooling system hoses and connections	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Exhaust system, Fuel lines and connections									
Lights and controls, Vehicle underbody									
Inspect supplemental restraint system	10 years after production								

Follow the Severe Maintenance Schedule if you drive your vehicle *MAINLY* under one or more of the following conditions:

- Driving less than 5 miles (8 km) per trip or, in freezing-temperatures, driving less than 10 miles (16 km) per trip.
- Driving in hot [over 90°F (32°C)] conditions.
- Extensive idling or long periods of stop-and-go driving.
- Trailer towing, driving with a car-top carrier, or driving in mountainous conditions.
- Driving on muddy, dusty, or de-iced roads.

**For Canadian Owners**  
Follow the Maintenance Schedule for Severe Conditions.

\* 1 : Refer to page 189 for replacement information under special driving conditions.

## Required Maintenance Record

Have your servicing dealer record all Required Maintenance below. Keep receipts for all work done on your car.

<b>7,500 Mi.</b> 12,000 km (or 6 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>15,000 Mi.</b> 24,000 km (or 12 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>22,500 Mi.</b> 36,000 km (or 18 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>30,000 Mi.</b> 48,000 km (or 24 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>37,500 Mi.</b> 60,000 km (or 30 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>45,000 Mi.</b> 72,000 km (or 36 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>52,500 Mi.</b> 84,000 km (or 42 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>60,000 Mi.</b> 96,000 km (or 48 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date

<b>67,500 Mi.</b> 108,000 km (or 54 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>75,000 Mi.</b> 120,000 km (or 60 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>82,500 Mi.</b> 132,000 km (or 66 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>90,000 Mi.</b> 144,000 km (or 72 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>97,500 Mi.</b> 156,000 km (or 78 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>105,000 Mi.</b> 168,000 km (or 84 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>112,500 Mi.</b> 180,000 km (or 90 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date
<b>120,000 Mi.</b> 192,000 km (or 96 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mi. (Km) Date

# Non-Scheduled Maintenance Record

Record additional maintenance for severe driving conditions or non-scheduled maintenance on this page (see page 155).

<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date

<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date
<b>Maintenance Performed:</b>	(Sign or Stamp)	Miles (Km) Date

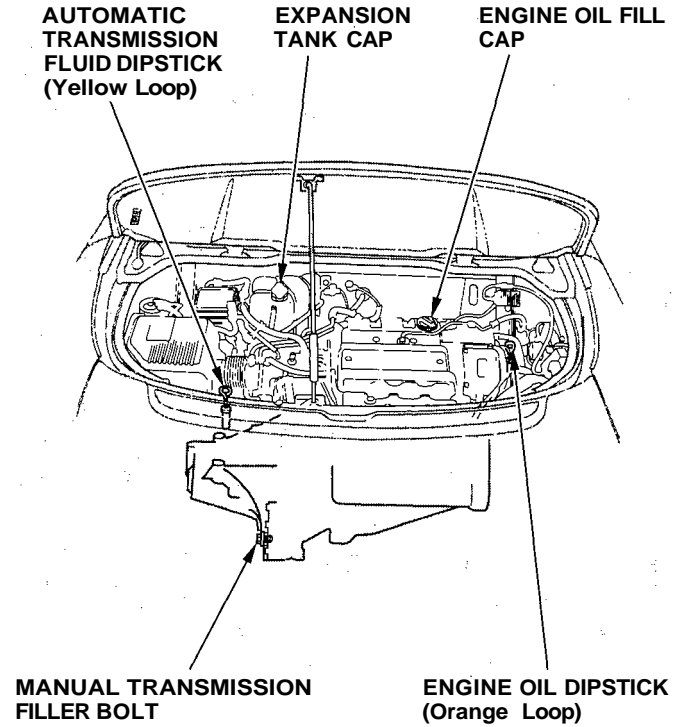
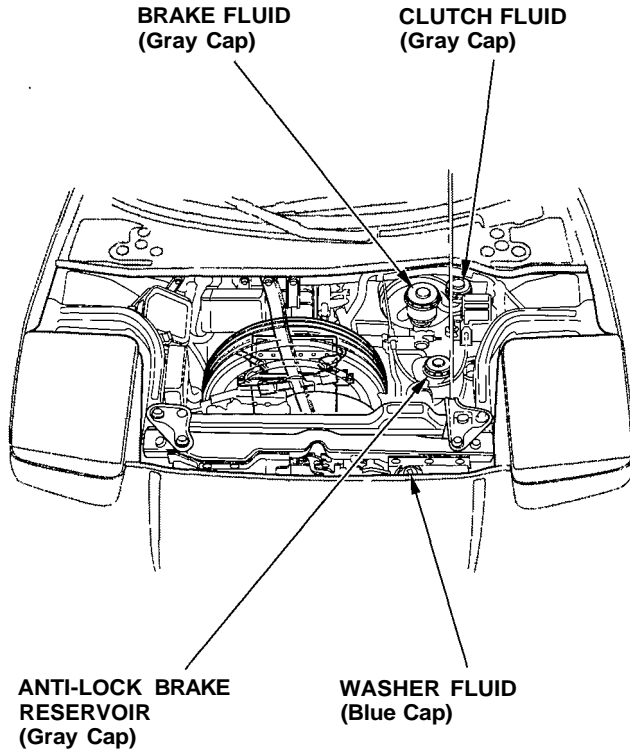
## Owner Maintenance Checks

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You should check the following items at the specified intervals. If you are unsure of how to perform any check, turn to the page given.

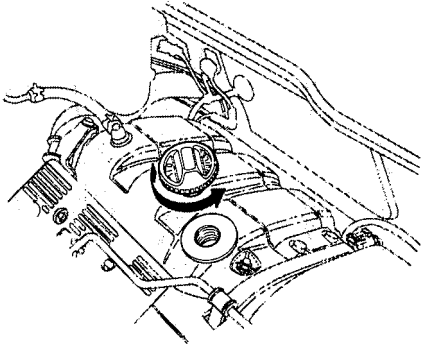
- Engine oil level — Check every time you fill the fuel tank. See page [118](#).
- Engine coolant level — Check the expansion tank every time you fill the fuel tank. See page [120](#).
- Windshield washer fluid — Check the level in the reservoir monthly. If weather conditions cause you to use the washers frequently, check the reservoir each time you stop for fuel. See page [171](#).
- Automatic transmission — Check the fluid level monthly. See page [172](#).
- Brakes and clutch — Check the fluid level monthly. See page [174](#).
- Tires — Check the tire pressure monthly. Examine the tread for wear and foreign objects. See page [189](#).
- Lights — Check the operation of the headlights, parking lights, taillights, high-mount brake light, turn signals, brake lights, and license plate lights monthly. See page [196](#).

# Fluid Locations



# Engine Oil

## Adding Oil



To add oil, unscrew and remove the engine oil fill cap on top of the left valve cover. Pour in the oil, and replace the engine oil fill cap. Tighten it securely. Wait a few minutes and recheck the oil level. Do not fill above the upper mark; you could damage the engine.

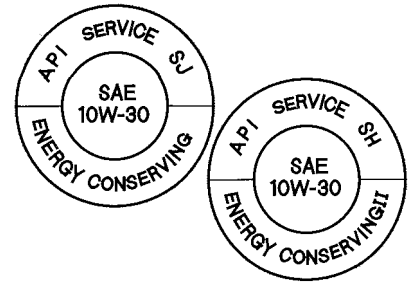
## Recommended Oil

Oil is a major contributor to your engine's performance and longevity. Always use a premium-grade detergent oil.

You can determine an oil's SAE viscosity and Service Classification from the API Service label on the oil container.

A fuel-efficient oil is recommended for your Acura. This is shown on the API Service label by the words "Energy Conserving" or "Energy Conserving II." This oil is formulated to help your engine use less fuel.

The API Service label also tells you the service classification of the oil. Always use an oil that is labeled "API Service SJ" or "API Service SH." This service rating may include other classifications, such as CD. These additional classifications are not a problem, as long as the label also carries the SJ or SH classification. An oil that is only classified SG is not recommended.



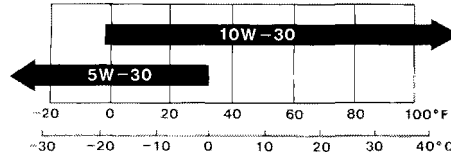
API SERVICE LABEL

The oil container may also display the API Certification mark. Make sure it says "For Gasoline Engines."



API CERTIFICATION MARK

The SAE numbers tell you the oil's viscosity or weight. Select the oil for your car according to this chart.



Ambient Temperature

An oil with a viscosity of 10W-30 is preferred for improved fuel economy and year-round protection in your Acura. You may use a 5W-30 oil if the temperature in your area never goes below 32°F (0°C).

## Synthetic Oil

You may use a synthetic motor oil if it meets the same requirements given for conventional motor oil; energy conserving, a service classification of SJ or SH, and the proper weight as shown on the chart. When using synthetic oil, you must follow the oil and filter change intervals given in the maintenance schedule.

## Additives

Your Acura does not need any oil additives. Purchasing additives for the engine or transmission will not increase your car's performance or longevity. It only increases the cost of operating your car.



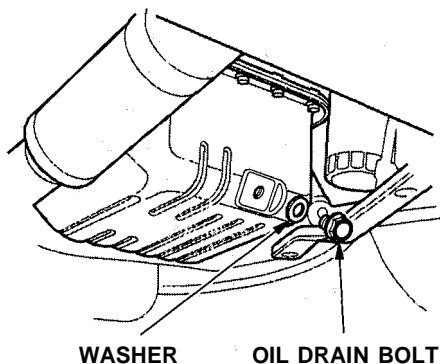
# Engine Oil

## Changing the Oil and Filter

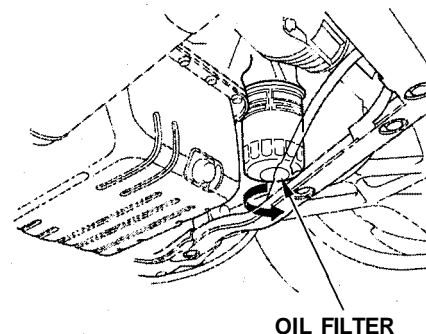
Always change the oil and filter according to the time and distance (miles/kilometers) recommendations in the maintenance schedule. The oil and filter collect contaminants that can damage your engine if they are not removed regularly.

Changing the oil and filter requires special tools and access from underneath the car. The car should be raised on a service station-type hydraulic lift for this service. Unless you have the knowledge and proper equipment, you should have this maintenance done by a skilled mechanic.

1. Run the engine until it reaches normal operating temperature, then shut it off.



2. Remove the engine oil fill cap. Remove the oil drain bolt from the bottom of the engine. Drain the oil into an appropriate container.



3. Remove the oil filter and let the remaining oil drain. A special wrench (available from your Acura dealer) is required to remove the filter.

4. Install a new oil filter according to instructions that come with it.

5. Put a new washer on the drain bolt, then reinstall the drain bolt.  
Tighten it to:  
**33 lbf-ft (4.6 kg-m, 45 N-m)**
6. Refill the engine with the recommended oil.  
Engine oil change capacity  
(including filter):  
**4.4 Imp qt (5.3 US qt, 5.0 l)**
7. Replace the engine oil fill cap.  
Start the engine. The oil pressure indicator light should go out within five seconds. If it does not, turn off the engine and reinspect your work.
8. Let the engine run for several minutes and check the drain bolt and oil filter for leaks.
9. Turn off the engine, let it sit for several minutes, then check the oil level. If necessary, add oil to bring the level to the upper mark on the dipstick.

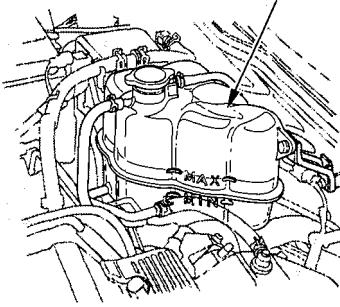
### NOTICE

*Improper disposal of engine oil can be harmful to the environment. If you change your own oil, please dispose of the used oil properly. Put it in a sealed container and take it to a recycling center. Do not discard it in a trash bin or dump it on the ground.*

# Cooling System

## Adding Engine Coolant

EXPANSION TANK



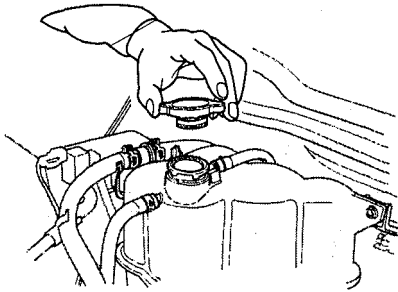
If the coolant level in the expansion tank is at or below the MIN line, add coolant to bring it up to the MAX line. Inspect the cooling system for leaks. This coolant should always be a mixture of 50 percent antifreeze and 50 percent water. Never add straight antifreeze or plain water.

Always use Genuine Honda antifreeze/coolant. If it is not available, you may use another major-brand non-silicate coolant as a temporary replacement. Make sure it is a high-quality coolant recommended for aluminum engines. However, continued use of any non-Honda coolant can result in corrosion, causing the cooling system to malfunction or fail. Have the cooling system flushed and refilled with Honda antifreeze/coolant as soon as possible.

### **WARNING**

Removing the expansion tank cap while the engine is hot can cause the coolant to spray out, seriously scalding you.

Always let the engine and radiator cool down before removing the expansion tank cap.



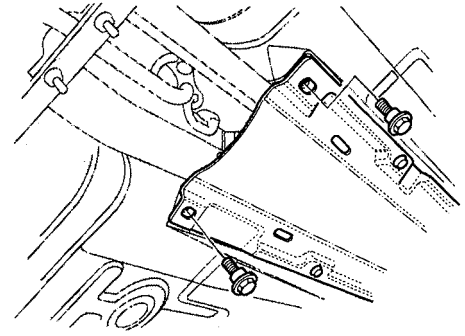
1. Make sure the engine and radiator are cool.
2. Turn the expansion tank cap counterclockwise, without pressing down on it, until it stops. This relieves any pressure remaining in the cooling system.
3. Remove the expansion tank cap by pushing down and turning counterclockwise.
4. Pour coolant into the reserve tank. Fill it to the MAX line. Put the cap back on the expansion tank.
5. Do not add any rust inhibitors or other additives to your car's cooling system. They may not be compatible with the coolant or engine components.

# Cooling System

## Replacing Engine Coolant

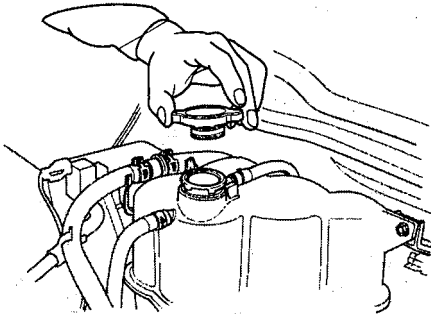
The cooling system should be completely drained and refilled with new coolant according to the time and distance recommendations in the maintenance schedule. Only use Genuine Honda antifreeze/coolant.

Draining the coolant requires access to the underside of the car. Unless you have the tools and knowledge, you should have this maintenance done by a skilled mechanic.

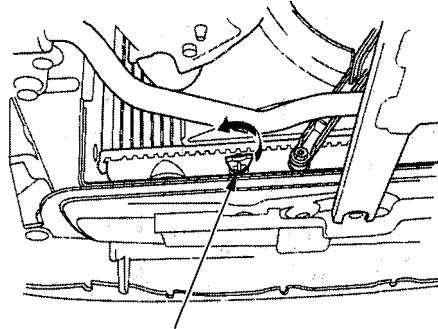


To replace the coolant:

1. Open the hood, the rear window, and engine cover.
2. Remove the cover protecting the coolant pipes and shift linkage on the underside of the car.

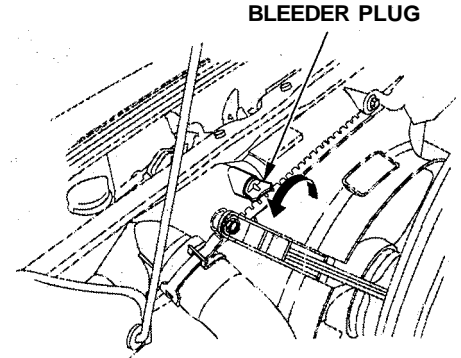


3. Start the engine. Turn the heater temperature control dial to maximum heat and turn off the engine. Open the hood and the engine cover. Make sure the engine and radiator are cool to the touch.



**DRAIN PLUG**

4. Remove the drain plug from the bottom of the radiator.

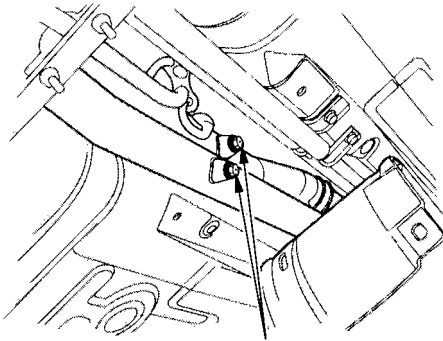


**BLEEDER PLUG**

5. Loosen the bleeder plug on top of the radiator.

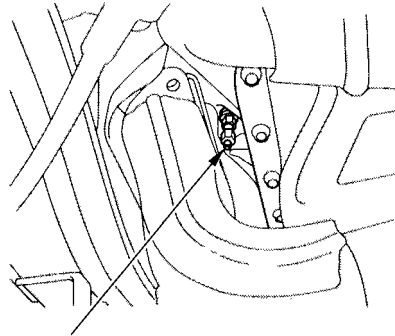
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# Cooling System



**DRAIN PLUG**

6. Remove the drain plugs from the coolant pipes under the car.

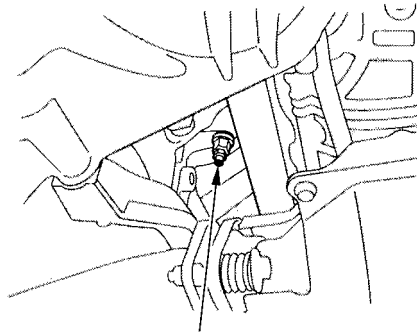


**DRAIN PLUG**

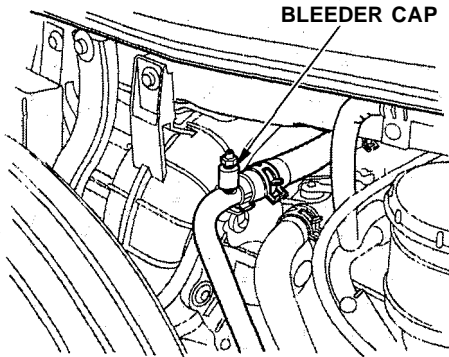
7. Loosen the drain plugs on the engine.

8. When the coolant stops draining, tighten the engine drain plugs, reinstall the plugs in the coolant pipes, and reinstall the radiator drain plug.

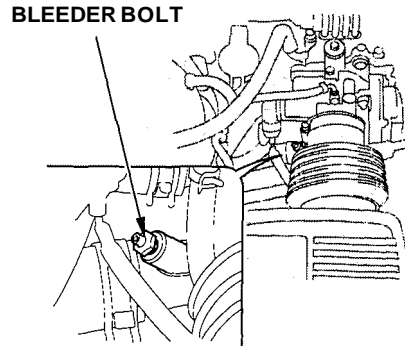
9. Mix the recommended antifreeze with an equal amount of purified or distilled water in a clean container. The cooling system capacity is:  
3.17 US gal (12.0 l , 2.64 Imp gal)



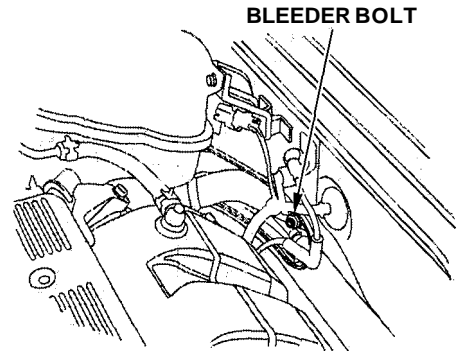
**DRAIN PLUG**



10. Remove the bleeder cap from the top of the heater inlet.



11. Loosen the bleeder bolt on top of the engine.



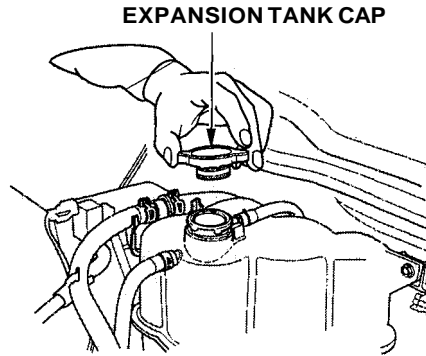
12. Loosen the bleeder bolt near the expansion tank.

*CONTINUED*



## Cooling System

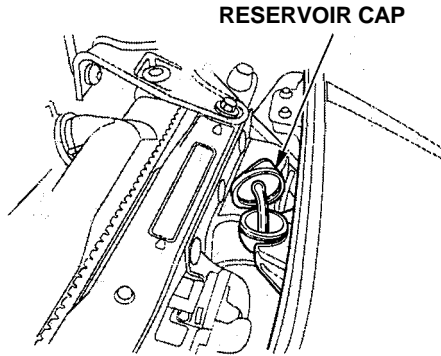
13. Pour coolant into the expansion tank. Coolant will go through the tank into the system. When the tank is full, go to each of the four bleeders. Close each bleeder when coolant comes out of it in a steady stream with no bubbles. You may need to refill the expansion tank.



14. Fill the expansion tank to about 1 in (2.5 cm) above the MAX line. Put the cap back on the tank, only tighten it to the first stop. Start the engine and let it run until it warms up (the radiator cooling fan comes on at least twice).

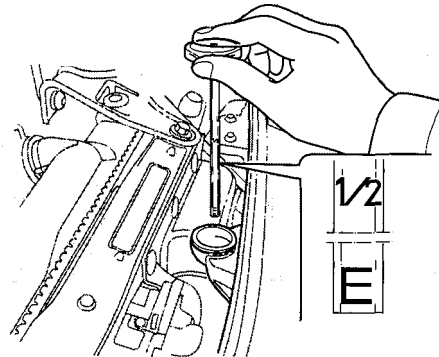
15. Turn off the engine. Check the expansion tank and, if needed, add coolant to bring it up to the MAX line. Tighten the expansion tank cap. Reinstall the cover on the car's underside.

The first coolant replacement should be done at 36 months or 45,000 miles (72,000 km) by your dealer. After that, it should be replaced every 2 years or 30,000 miles (48,000 km).



Check the level in the windshield washer reservoir at least monthly during normal usage. In bad weather, when you use the washers often, check the level every time you stop for fuel.

The windshield washer reservoir is located in the front compartment in front of the radiator.



Check the windshield washer fluid level as follows:

1. Unfasten the reservoir cap.
2. Cover the small hole on the cap with your finger and pull up until the tube is fully exposed.

3. Read the fluid level on the tube. If the fluid level is near the "E" mark, fill the reservoir with windshield washer fluid up to the brim.

Fill the reservoir with a good-quality windshield washer fluid. This increases the cleaning capability and prevents freezing in cold weather.

## NOTICE

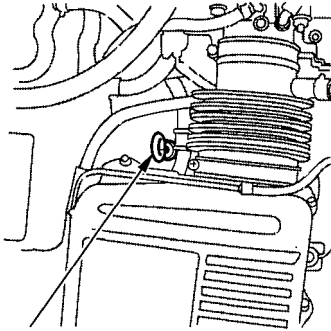
*Do not use engine antifreeze or a vinegar/water solution in the windshield washer reservoir.*

*Antifreeze can damage your car's paint, while a vinegar/water solution can damage the windshield washer pump.*

*Use only commercially-available windshield washer fluid.*

# Transmission Fluid

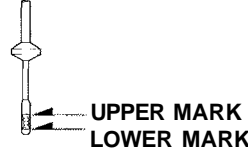
## Automatic Transmission



DIPSTICK

Check the fluid level with the engine at normal operating temperature.

1. Park the car on level ground. Shut off the engine.
2. Remove the dipstick (yellow loop) from the transmission and wipe it with a clean cloth.



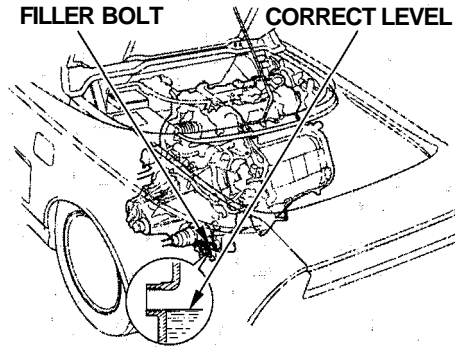
3. Insert the dipstick into the transmission. Make sure the notch in the rubber cap fits in the dipstick guide and that you push the dipstick in all the way.
4. Remove the dipstick and check the fluid level. It should be between the upper and lower marks.

5. If the level is below the lower mark, add fluid into the tube to bring it to the upper mark. Always use Honda Premium Formula Automatic Transmission Fluid (ATF). If it is not available, you may use a DEXRON® III automatic transmission fluid as a temporary replacement. However, continued use can affect shift quality. Have the transmission drained and refilled with Honda ATF as soon as it is convenient.

6. Insert the dipstick back in the transmission. Make sure the notch fits in the dipstick guide and the dipstick is down all the way.

The transmission should be drained and refilled with new fluid according to the time and distance recommendations in the maintenance schedule.

## 6 speed Manual Transmission



Check the fluid level with the transmission at normal operating temperature and the vehicle sitting on level ground. Remove the transmission filler bolt and carefully feel inside the bolt hole with your finger. The fluid level should be up to the edge of the bolt hole. If it is not, add Genuine Honda Manual Transmission Fluid (MTF) until it starts to run out of the hole. Reinstall the filler bolt and tighten it securely.

If Honda MTF is not available, you may use an API service SG or SH grade motor oil with a viscosity of SAE 10W-30 or 10W-40 as a temporary replacement. However, motor oil does not contain the proper additives and continued use can cause stiffer shifting. Replace as soon as convenient.

The transmission should be drained and refilled with new fluid according to the time and distance recommendations in the maintenance schedule.

## Brake and Clutch Fluid

Check the fluid level in the reservoirs monthly. There are three reservoirs. They are:

- Brake fluid reservoir
- Clutch fluid reservoir (manual transmission only)
- ABS reservoir

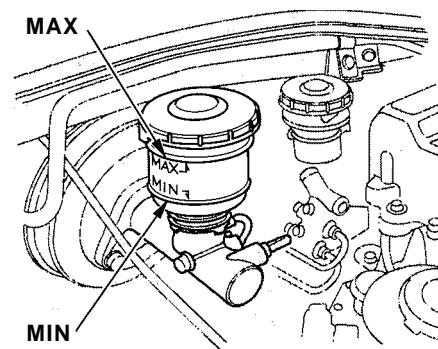
The brake fluid in the brake and anti-lock brake systems should be replaced according to the time and distance recommendations in the maintenance schedule.

### Brake Fluid

Always use Genuine Honda DOT 3 brake fluid. If it is not available, you should use only DOT 3 or DOT 4 fluid, from a sealed container, as a temporary replacement. However, the use of any non-Honda brake fluid can cause corrosion and decrease the life of the system. Have the brake system flushed and refilled with Honda DOT 3 brake fluid as soon as possible.

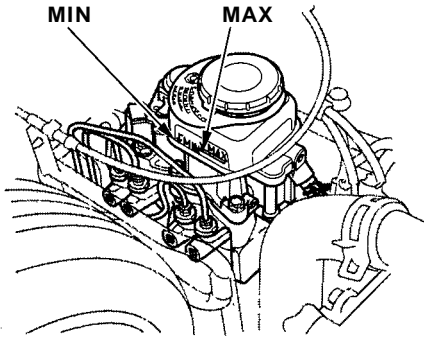
Brake fluid marked DOT 5 is not compatible with your car's braking system and can cause extensive damage.

### Brake System



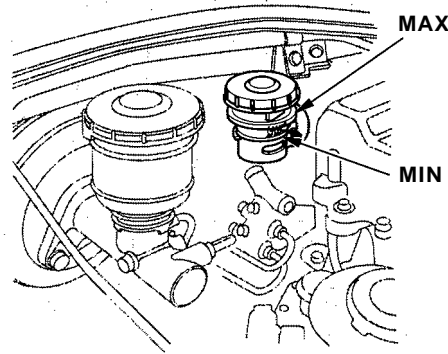
The fluid level should be between the MIN and MAX marks on the side of the reservoir. If the level is at or below the MIN mark, your brake system needs attention. Have the brake system inspected for leaks or worn brake pads.

## Anti-lock Brake System



The fluid should be between the MIN and MAX marks on the side of the reservoir. If it is at or below the MIN mark, it indicates a possible problem in the ABS. Have the dealer inspect the system as soon as possible.

## Clutch System



The fluid should be between the MIN and MAX marks on the side of the reservoir. If it is not, add brake fluid to bring it up to that level. Use the same fluid specified for the brake system.

Low fluid level can indicate a leak in the clutch system. Have this system inspected as soon as possible.

## Air Cleaner Element

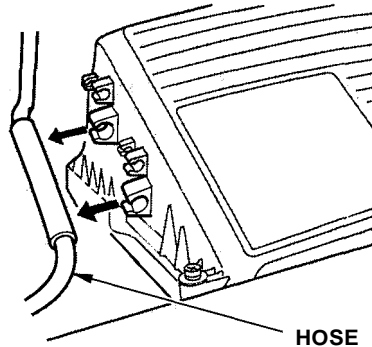
The air cleaner element should be cleaned or replaced according to the time and distance recommendations in the maintenance schedule.

### **Cleaning (Severe Conditions)**

Clean the air cleaner element by blowing compressed air through it in the opposite direction to normal air flow. If you do not have access to compressed air (such as a service station), ask your Acura dealer to do this service.

Follow the replacement procedure for removal and reinstallation.

### **Replacement**

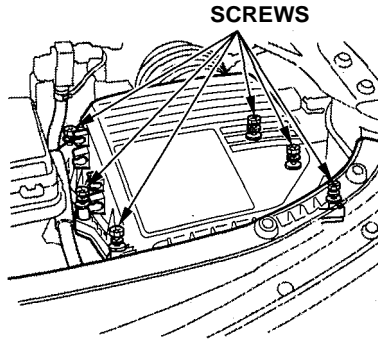


The air cleaner element is inside the air cleaner housing on the driver's side of the engine compartment. To replace it:

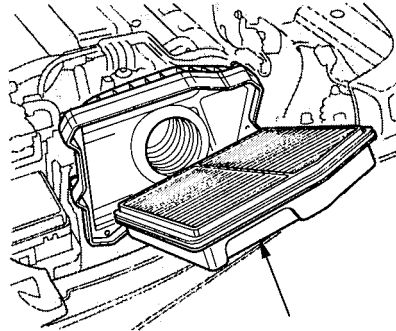
1. Loosen the hose clamp around the engine air intake tube. Slide the tube off the air cleaner housing cover.

2. Carefully unsnap a hose from the clips on the air cleaner housing cover.

## Air Cleaner Element



3. Loosen the six Phillips-head screws around the edge of the air cleaner housing cover. Remove the air cleaner housing cover and set it aside.



4. Remove the old air cleaner element.  
Clean the inside of the air cleaner housing with a damp rag.

5. Install the new air cleaner element, making sure the rubber seal fits on all four sides.
6. Reinstall the air cleaner housing-cover. Tighten the six screws.
7. Slide the air intake tube onto the air cleaner housing cover. Tighten the hose clamp.
8. Snap a hose back into the clips on the air cleaner housing cover.



## Fuel Filter, Spark Plugs

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### Fuel Filter

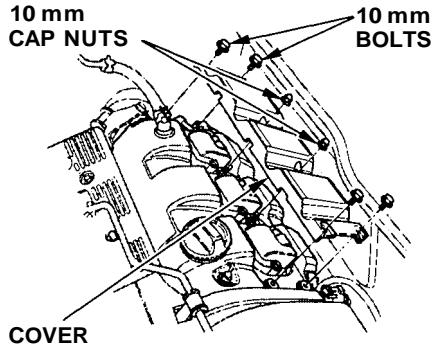
The fuel filter should be replaced every 4 years or 60,000 miles (96,000 km), whichever comes first. Have a qualified technician change the fuel filter. Since the fuel system is under pressure, gasoline can spray out and create a hazard if all fuel line connections are not handled correctly.

The filter may require replacement sooner if you happen to buy one or more tankfuls of contaminated gasoline. Have the filter tested or replaced if you suspect it has been clogged by contaminants.

### Spark Plugs

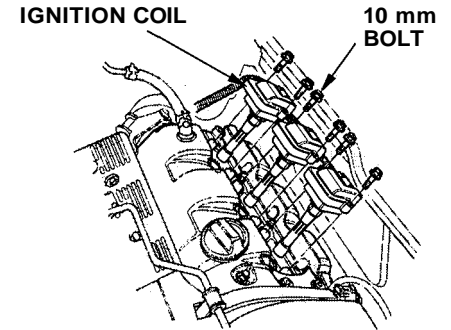
The spark plugs in your car are a special platinum-tipped design for longer life. They only need to be replaced every 7 years or 105,000 miles (168,000 km), whichever comes first.

## Replacement



Replace the spark plugs one side at a time. Make sure the front cylinder ignition coils and the back side of the cover are marked "FR" and the rear cylinder ignition coils and the back side of the cover are marked "RR". To replace them:

1. Remove the cover over the spark plugs by removing the four 10 mm bolts and the two 10 mm cap nuts.



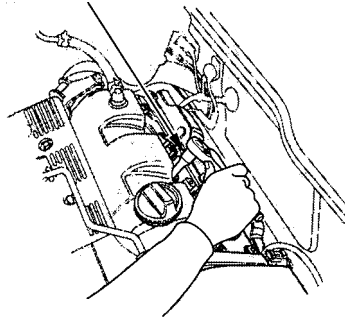
2. Disconnect the three ignition coils from the wire harness by squeezing the harness end of each connector and pulling.

CONTINUED

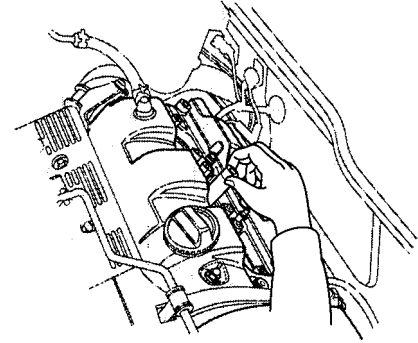
## Spark Plugs

3. Remove the two 10 mm bolts holding the ignition coil. Remove the ignition coil by pulling it straight out as you twist it slightly.

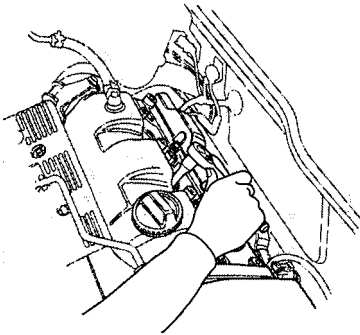
### SPARK PLUG SOCKET



4. Remove the spark plug with a five-eighths inch (16 mm) spark plug socket.



5. Put the new spark plug into the socket; then screw it into the hole. Screw it in by hand so you do not crosstread it.



6. Torque the spark plug. (If you do not have a torque wrench, tighten the spark plug two-thirds of a turn after it contacts the cylinder head.)  
Tightening torque:  
**13 lbf-ft (1.8kgf-m, 18 N-m)**

## NOTICE

*Tighten the spark plugs carefully. A spark plug that is too loose can overheat and damage the engine. Overtightening can cause damage to the threads in the cylinder head.*

7. Install the ignition coil. Install and tighten the two hold-down bolts to:  
Tightening torque:  
**9 lbf-ft (1.2 kgf-m, 12 N-m)**
8. Reconnect the ignition coil to the wire harness.
9. After changing the three spark plugs on each side, reinstall the spark plug covers, bolts and nuts. Tighten the bolts and nuts.  
Tightening torque:  
**9 lbf-ft (1.2 kgf-m, 12 N-m)**

## Specifications:

NGK: **PFR6L-11**  
DENSO: **PK20PR-L11**

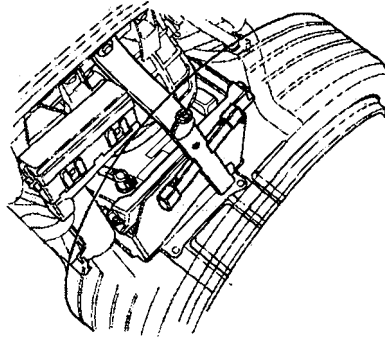
## Spark Plug Gap:

0.043 in <sup>+0</sup>/<sub>-0.004</sub> in (1.1 mm <sup>+0</sup>/<sub>-0.1</sub> mm)

## Battery

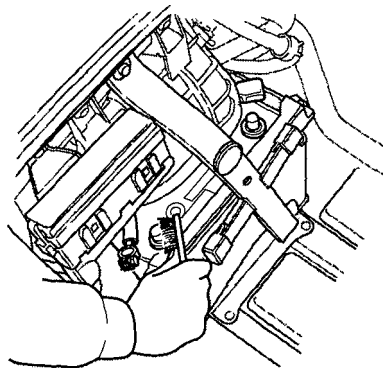
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Check the condition of your car's battery monthly. You should check the color of the test indicator window, and for corrosion on the terminals.



Check the battery condition by looking at the test indicator window on the battery. The label on the battery explains the test indicator's colors.

Check the battery terminals for corrosion (a white or yellowish powder). To remove it, cover the terminals with a solution of baking soda and water. It will bubble up and turn brown. When this stops, wash it off with plain water. Dry off the battery with a cloth or paper towel. Coat the terminals with grease to help prevent future corrosion.



If the terminals are severely corroded, clean them with baking soda and water. Then use a wrench to loosen and remove the cables from the terminals. Always disconnect the negative ( — ) cable first and reconnect it last. Clean the battery terminals with a terminal cleaning tool or wire brush. Reconnect and tighten the cables, then coat the terminals with grease.

If you need to connect the battery to a charger, disconnect both cables to prevent damage to the car's electrical system.

### **⚠ WARNING**

The battery gives off explosive hydrogen gas during normal operation.

A spark or flame can cause the battery to explode with enough force to kill or seriously hurt you.

Wear protective clothing and a face shield, or have a skilled mechanic do the battery maintenance.

*CONTINUED*

## Battery

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If your car's battery is disconnected or goes dead, the engine's computer needs to "relearn" the idle control. After replacing or recharging the battery:

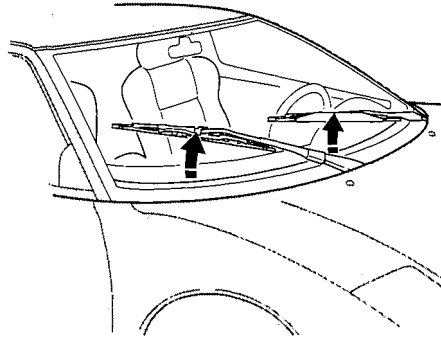
1. Make sure the climate control system is off.
2. Start the engine and let it run until it warms up (the radiator cooling fan comes on at least twice), and let it idle for five more minutes.

### NOTICE

*Charging the battery with the cables connected can seriously damage your car's electronic controls. Detach the battery cables before connecting the battery to a charger.*

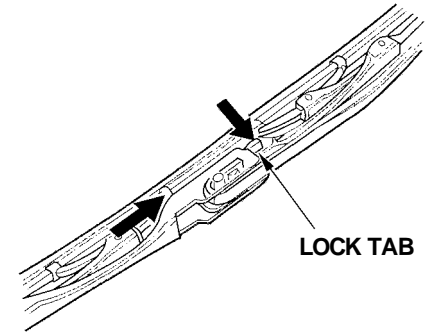
## Windshield Wipers

Check the condition of the windshield wiper blades at least every six months. Look for signs of cracking in the rubber, or areas that are getting hard. Replace the blades if you find these signs, or they leave streaks and unwiped areas when used.



To replace the blade:

1. Turn the ignition ON (II), switch the wiper to INT or — (low position), then turn the ignition OFF when the wiper arm is approximately midway in its travel.

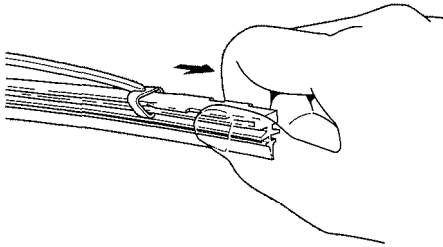


2. Disconnect the blade assembly from the wiper arm by pushing in the lock tab. Hold it in while you push the blade assembly toward the base of the arm.

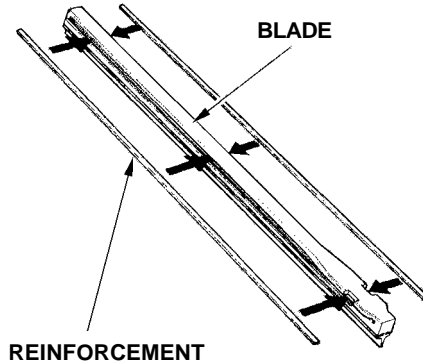
*CONTINUED*



## Windshield Wipers



3. Remove the blade from its holder by grasping the tabbed end of the blade. Pull firmly until the tabs come out of the holder.



4. Examine the new wiper blades. If they have no plastic or metal reinforcement along the back edge, remove the metal reinforcement strips from the old wiper blade and install them in the slots along the edge of the new blade.

5. Slide the new wiper blade into the holder until the tabs lock.
6. Slide the wiper blade assembly onto the wiper arm. Make sure it locks in place.
7. Turn the ignition switch ON (II) and return the windshield wipers to their park position.

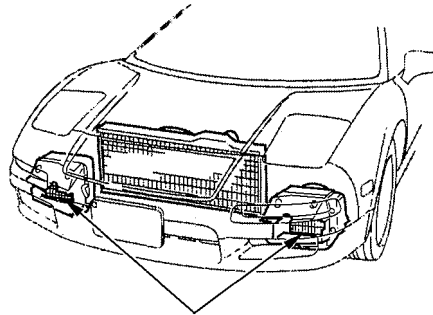
## Air Conditioning System

Your car's air conditioning is a sealed system. Any major maintenance, such as recharging, should be done by a qualified technician. You can do a couple of things to make sure the air conditioning works efficiently.

Periodically check the engine's radiator and air conditioning condenser for leaves, insects, and dirt stuck to the front surface. These block the air flow and reduce cooling efficiency. Use a light spray from a hose or a soft brush to remove them.

### NOTICE

*The condenser and radiator fins bend easily. Only use a low-pressure spray or soft-bristle brush to clean them.*



### AIR CONDITIONING CONDENSERS

Run the air conditioning at least once a week during the cold weather months. Run it for at least ten minutes while you are driving at a steady speed with the engine at normal operating temperature. This circulates the lubricating oil contained in the refrigerant.

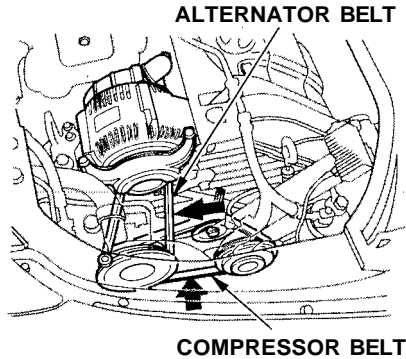
If the air conditioning does not get as cold as before, have your dealer check the system. Recharge the system with Refrigerant HFC-134a (R-134a). (See Specifications on page [253](#).)

### NOTICE

*Whenever you have the air conditioning system serviced, make sure the service facility uses a refrigerant recycling system. This system captures the refrigerant for reuse. Releasing refrigerant into the atmosphere can damage the environment.*

## Drive Belts

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Check the condition of the three drive belts. Examine the edges of each belt for cracks or fraying.

Check the tension of each belt by pushing on it with your thumb midway between the pulleys.

The belts should have the following "play" or deflection.

Alternator belt:

0.4 — 0.53 in (11 — 13.5mm)

Compressor belt:

0.4 — 0.5 in (10 — 12 mm)

If you see signs of wear or looseness, have your dealer adjust or replace the belts.

### Timing Belt

The timing belt and balancer belt should normally be replaced at the intervals shown in the maintenance schedule.

Replace these belts at 60,000 miles (U.S.) or 100,000 km (Canada) if you regularly drive your car in one or more of these conditions:

- In very high temperatures (over 110°F, 43°C).
- In very low temperatures (under —20°F, —29°C).

### Tires

To safely operate your car, your tires must be the proper type and size, in good condition with adequate tread, and correctly inflated. The following pages give more detailed information on how and when to check air pressure, how to inspect your tires for damage and wear, and what to do when your tires need to be replaced.

#### **WARNING**

Using tires that are excessively worn or improperly inflated can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Follow all instructions in this owner's manual regarding tire inflation and maintenance.

### Inflation

Keeping the tires properly inflated provides the best combination of handling, tread life and riding comfort. Underinflated tires wear unevenly, adversely affect handling and fuel economy, and are more likely to fail from being overheated. Overinflated tires can make your car ride more harshly, are more prone to damage from road hazards, and wear unevenly.

We recommend that you visually check your tires every day. If you think a tire might be low, check it immediately with a tire gauge.

*CONTINUED*

## Tires

Use a gauge to measure the air pressure at least once a month. Even tires that are in good condition may lose one to two psi (10 to 20 kPa) per month. Remember to check the spare tire at the same time you check all the other tires.

Check the pressure in the tires when they are cold. This means the car has been parked for at least three hours. If you have to drive the car before checking the tire pressure, the tires can still be considered "cold" if you drive less than 1 mile (1.6km).

If you check the pressure when the tires are hot (the car has been driven several miles), you will see readings 4 to 6 psi (0.3 to 0.4 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 30 to 40 kPa) higher than the cold reading. This is normal. Do not let air out to match the specified cold pressure. The tire will be underinflated.

You should get your own tire pressure gauge and use it whenever you check your tire pressures. This will make it easier for you to tell if a pressure loss is due to a tire problem and not due to a variation between gauges.

### ***Recommended Tire Pressures for Normal Driving***

The following chart shows the recommended cold tire pressures for most normal driving conditions and speeds. Tire pressures for high speed driving are the same as for normal driving.

### Front:

Tire Size	Cold Tire Pressure for Normal Driving
215/45ZR16	33 psi (2.3 kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> , 230 kPa)

### Rear:

Tire Size	Cold Tire Pressure for Normal Driving
245/40ZR17	40 psi (2.8 kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> , 275 kPa)

The folding spare tire pressure is:

Front:

26 psi (1.8 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 180 kPa)

Rear:

32 psi (2.2 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 220 kPa)

These pressures are also given on the tire information label on the driver's doorjamb.

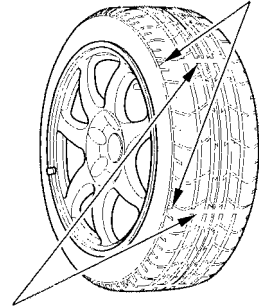
Tubeless tires have some ability to self-seal if they are punctured. However, because leakage is often very slow, you should look closely for punctures if a tire starts losing pressure.

## Inspection

Every time you check inflation, you should also examine the tires for damage, foreign objects, and wear. You should look for:

- Bumps or bulges in the tread or side of the tire. Replace the tire if you find either of these conditions.
- Cuts, splits, or cracks in the side of the tire. Replace the tire if you can see fabric or cord.
- Excessive tread wear.

## INDICATOR LOCATION MARKS



## TREAD WEAR INDICATORS

Your car's tires have wear indicators molded into the tread. When the tread wears down to that point, you will see a 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) wide band running across the tread. This shows there is less than 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) of tread left on the tire. A tire that is this worn gives very little traction on wet roads. You should replace the tire if you can see the tread wear indicator in three or more places around the tire.

# Tires

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## Maintenance

In addition to proper inflation, correct wheel alignment helps to decrease tire wear. If you find a tire is worn unevenly, have your dealer check the wheel alignment.

The tires were properly balanced by the factory. They may need to be rebalanced at some time before they are worn out. Have your dealer check the tires if you feel a consistent vibration while driving. A tire should always be rebalanced if it is removed from the wheel for repair.

Make sure the installer balances the wheels when you have new tires installed. This increases riding comfort and tire life. Your car's original tires were dynamic or "spin" balanced at the factory. For best results, have the installer perform a dynamic balance.

### NOTICE

*Improper wheel weights can damage your car's aluminum wheels. Use only Genuine Acura wheel weights for balancing.*

## Tire Rotation

You should not rotate your NSX's tires. The front wheels are 16" diameter and the rear wheels are 17" so they cannot be rotated front-to-rear. The original-equipment tires on your NSX have a unidirectional tread pattern, so they cannot be rotated side-to-side.

## Tire Wear

The tires that came on your NSX were designed and constructed to provide superior grip during acceleration, braking, and cornering. As a trade-off, they will wear more rapidly than tires used on ordinary passenger cars. Because of the car's weight distribution, and the fact that they are the driving wheels, you can expect the rear tires to wear more rapidly than the front tires.

The tire mileage you can expect from your NSX is the same as comparable mid-and rear-engined sports cars, and it will vary greatly with your driving habits. If you drive moderately, the rear tires could last more than 10,000 miles (16,000 km). However, the mileage will be substantially less if you tend to drive your NSX at the upper limits of its capabilities. You should carefully inspect your car's tires for wear, damage, and proper inflation every 2,000 miles (3,200 km) (see page 191).

## Replacing Tires and Wheels

The tires that came with your car were selected to match the performance capabilities of the car while providing the best combination of handling, ride comfort, and long life. You should replace them with radial tires of the same size, load range, speed rating, and maximum cold tire pressure rating (as shown on the tire's sidewall). Mixing radial and bias-ply tires on your car can reduce its braking ability, traction, and steering accuracy.

### **WARNING**

Installing improper tires on your car can affect handling and stability. This can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Always use the size and type of tires recommended in this owner's manual.

It is best to replace all four tires at the same time. If that is not possible or necessary, then replace the two front tires or the two rear tires as a pair. Replacing just one tire can seriously affect your car's handling.

*CONTINUED*



## Tires

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The ABS works by comparing the speed of the wheels. When replacing tires, use the same size originally supplied with the car. Tire size and construction can affect wheel speed and may cause the system to work inconsistently.

If you ever need to replace a wheel, make sure the wheel's specifications match those of the original wheel that came on your car. Replacement wheels are available at your Acura dealer.

### Wheels and Tires

Wheels:

Front:

16 x 7 JJ

Rear:

17 x 8 1/2 JJ

Tires:

Front:

215/45ZR16

Rear:

245/40ZR17

See *Tire Information* on page [255](#) for additional information about tire and wheel size designations. See page [256](#) for information about DOT Tire Quality Grading.

### Winter Driving

Tires that are marked "M + S" or "All Season" on the sidewall have an all-weather tread design. They should be suitable for most winter driving conditions. Tires without these markings are designed for optimum traction in dry conditions. They may not provide adequate performance in winter driving. For the best performance in snowy or icy conditions, you should install snow tires or tire chains. They may be required by local laws under certain conditions.

## **Snow Tires**

If you mount snow tires on your Acura, make sure they are radial tires of the same size and load range as the original tires. Mount snow tires on all four wheels to balance your car's handling in all weather conditions. Keep in mind the traction provided by snow tires on dry roads may not be as high as your car's original-equipment tires. You should drive cautiously even when the roads are clear. Check with the tire dealer for maximum speed recommendations.

## **Tire Chains**

Mount snow chains on your car when warranted by driving conditions or required by local laws. Make sure the chains are the correct size for your tires. Use greater caution when driving with snow chains on snow or ice. They may have less-predictable handling than good winter tires without chains. Some snow chains may damage the car's tires, wheels, suspension and body. Consult your Acura dealer before purchasing any type of chains for your NSX.

When installing the traction devices, follow the manufacturer's instructions and mount them as tightly as you can. Drive slowly when they are installed. If you hear them coming in contact with the body, stop and tighten them. If they still make contact, slow down until it stops. Remove them as soon as you start driving on cleared roads.

## **NOTICE**

*Traction devices that tire the wrong size or improperly installed can damage your vehicle's brake lines, suspension, body, and wheels. Stop driving if they are hitting any part of the vehicle.*

# Lights

Check the operation of your car's exterior lights at least once a month. A burned out bulb can create an unsafe condition by reducing your car's visibility and the ability to signal your intentions to other drivers.

Check the following:

- Headlights (low and high beam)
- Parking lights
- Taillights
- Brake lights
- Turn signals
- Back-up lights
- Hazard light function
- License plate light
- Side marker lights
- Daytime running lights  
(Canadian cars)

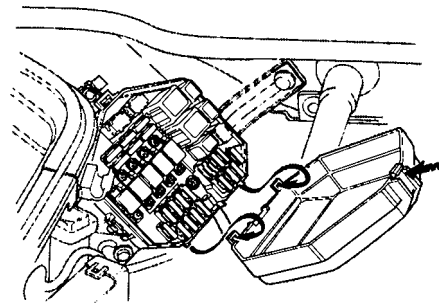
If you find any bulbs are burned out, replace them as soon as possible. Refer to the chart on page [243](#) to determine what type of replacement bulb is needed.

## Replacing a Headlight Bulb

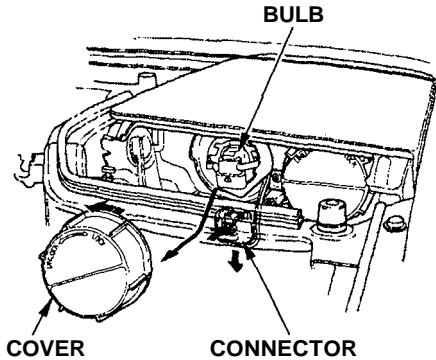
Your car has halogen headlight and fog light bulbs. When replacing a bulb, handle it by its steel base and protect the glass from contact with your skin or hard objects. If you touch the glass, clean it with denatured alcohol and a clean cloth.

### NOTICE

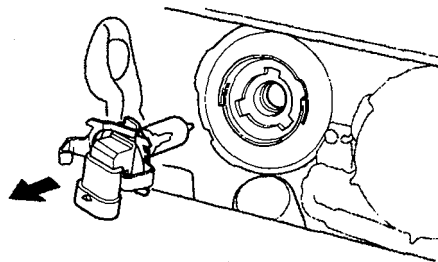
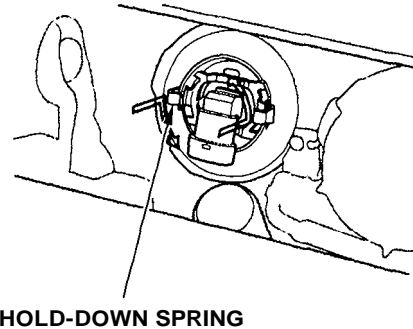
*Halogen headlight bulbs get very hot when lit. Oil, perspiration, or a scratch on the glass can cause the bulb to overheat and shatter.*



1. Lift the hood and remove the cover from the front compartment fuse box.
2. Use the label on the fuse box cover to locate the fuse for the headlight motor. Remove the fuse with the fuse remover located in the interior fuse box.



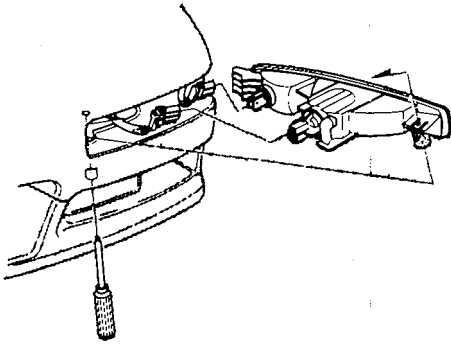
3. Remove the cover from the back of the burned-out bulb by turning it counterclockwise.
4. Remove the electrical connector from the bulb by grasping it between your thumb and fingers and pushing downward while you wiggle it slightly. Make sure you pull on the connector, not the wires.



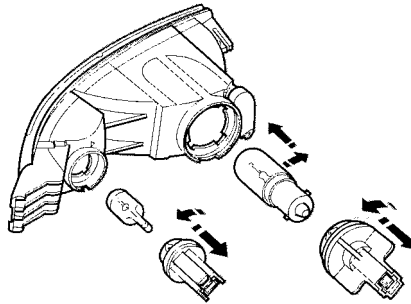
5. Push the edge of the hold-down spring and turn counterclockwise.
6. Insert the new bulb into the socket, making sure all the tabs are in place.
7. Reinstall the hold-down spring.
8. Push the electrical connector back onto the bulb. Make sure it is on all the way.
9. Replace the bulb cover. Line up the three tabs, push the cover in, and turn it clockwise until it locks.
10. Reinstall the headlight motor fuse.
11. Turn on the headlights to test the new bulb.

# Lights

## Replacing a Front Turn Signal and Parking Light Bulbs



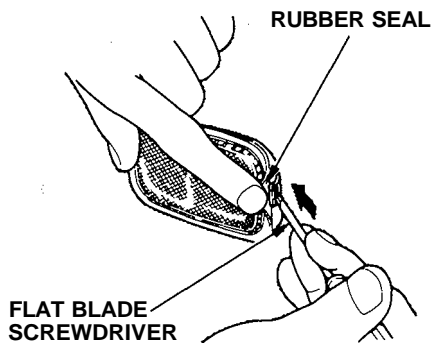
1. Use a Phillips-head screwdriver to loosen the turn signal assembly's mounting screw.
2. Remove the turn signal assembly from the bumper. Remove the electrical connector from the bulb holder by squeezing the connector and pulling.



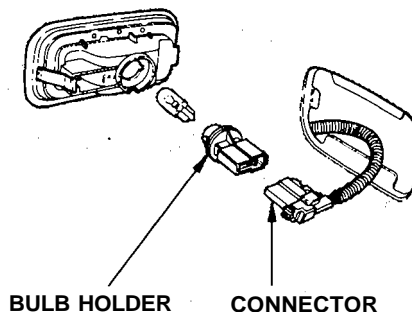
3. Remove the bulb holder from the turn signal assembly by turning it counterclockwise.
4. To remove the turn signal bulb, push it in slightly and turn it counterclockwise. To remove the parking light bulb, pull it straight out of its holder.

5. Install the new bulb in the socket.
6. Push the bulb holder into the turn signal assembly and turn it clockwise until it locks.
7. Reconnect the electrical connector to the bulb holder.
8. Test the lights to make sure the new bulb is working.
9. Put the turn signal assembly into the bumper. Install and tighten the mounting screw.

## Replacing Side Marker Bulbs



1. Use your fingernail to lift the rubber seal along the back edge of the side marker lens.
2. Use a small flat blade screwdriver under the rubber seal to pry carefully on the back edge of the side marker assembly until it pops out of the body.



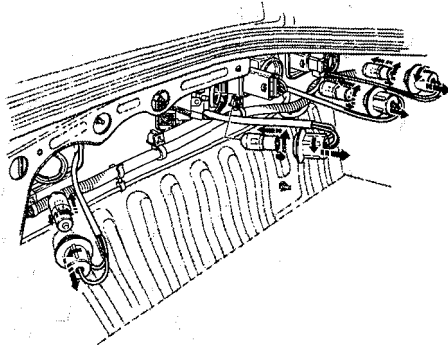
3. Remove the electrical connector from the bulb holder by squeezing the connector and pulling them apart.
4. Turn the bulb holder one-quarter turn counterclockwise to remove it from the lens.
5. Pull the bulb straight out of its socket.  
Push the new bulb straight into

the socket until it bottoms.

6. Put the bulb holder back into its hole in the lens and turn it clockwise until it locks.
7. Plug the wire harness back into the bulb holder.
8. Turn on the parking lights and check that the new bulb is working.
9. Put the side marker assembly back into the body, front first. Push on the back edge until it snaps into place.

# Lights

## Replacing Rear Bulbs



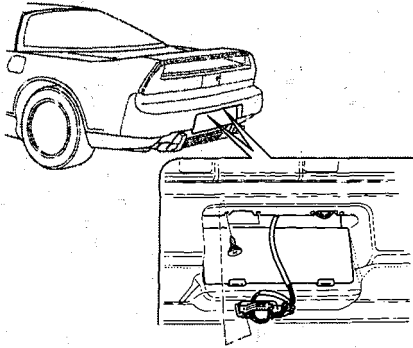
The bulbs for the taillights, tail/stoplights, rear turn signals, and back-up lights are behind the trunk liner.

1. Pull the top edge of the trunk liner out from under the rubber seal. Remove the plastic clips holding the trunk liner by putting your thumbs under the head of the clip between the liner and body and pushing the clip outward as you wiggle it back and forth.

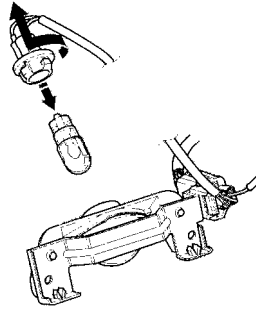
2. Determine which bulb in the taillight assembly is burned out.
3. Remove the socket from the taillight assembly by turning it one-quarter turn counterclockwise and pulling it outward.

4. If the turn signal light bulb, back-up bulb, or tail/stoplight bulb is burned out, remove it by pushing it in and turning counterclockwise. If the taillight bulb is burned out, remove it by pulling it straight out of its socket.
5. Install the new bulb in the socket in the reverse order of removal.
6. To reinstall the socket, line up the tabs on the socket with the slots in the taillight, push the socket into the hole, and turn it clockwise until it locks.
7. Test the lights to make sure the new bulb is working.
8. Install the trunk liner clips by pushing them straight in. Insert the top edge of the liner back under the rubber seal.

## Replacing a Rear License Bulb



1. Use a Phillips-head screwdriver to remove the two screws holding the license plate light assembly to the bracket. Pull the assembly away from the bracket.



2. Remove the socket from the light assembly by turning it one-quarter turn counterclockwise.

3. Pull the bulb straight out of the socket.

4. Install the new bulb in the socket.

5. Turn on the parking lights and make sure the new bulb is working. Reinstall the license plate assembly on the bumper bracket with the same two screws.

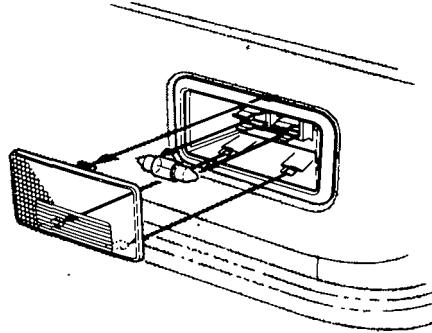


# Lights

## Replacing Bulbs in the Interior Courtesy Lights

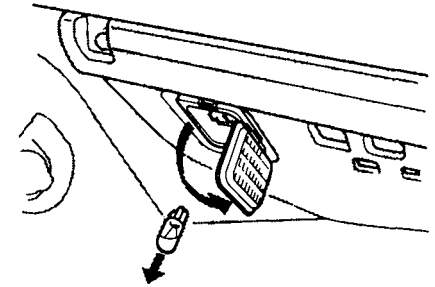
The courtesy lights in the doors, roof and under the dashboard come apart the same way. They do not all use the same bulb.

DOOR



1. Remove the lens by carefully prying on the edge with your fingernail or a small flat-tip screwdriver. The two lenses on the roof mounted interior light come out as a unit.

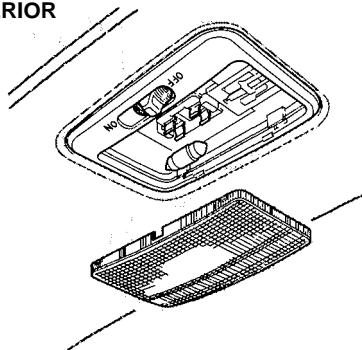
FOOTWELL



2. Remove the bulb by pulling it straight out of its metal tabs.
3. Push the new bulb into the metal tabs. Snap the cover back in place.

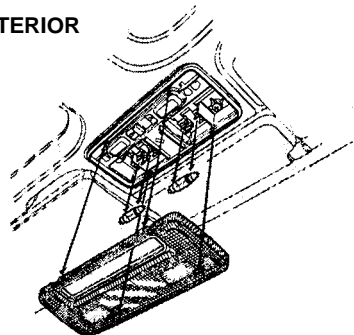
## On cars with removable roof (NSX-T)

INTERIOR

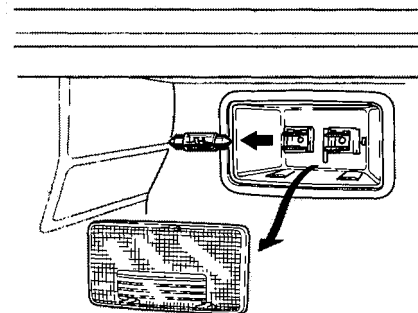


## On the standard model (Except NSX-T)

INTERIOR



TRUNK



## Storing Your Car

---

If you need to park your car for an extended period (more than one month), there are several things you should do to prepare it for storage. Proper preparation helps prevent deterioration and makes it easier to get your car back on the road. If possible, store your car indoors.

- Fill the fuel tank.
- Change the engine oil and filter (see page [162](#)).
- Wash and dry the exterior completely.
- Clean the interior. Make sure the carpeting, floor mats, etc. are completely dry.
- Leave the parking brake off. Put the transmission in Park.

- Block the rear wheels.
- If the car is to be stored for a longer period, it should be supported on jackstands so the tires are off the ground.
- Leave one window open slightly (if the car is being stored indoors).
- Disconnect the battery.
- Support the front wiper blade arms with a folded towel or rag so they do not touch the windshield.
- To minimize sticking, apply a silicone spray lubricant to all door and trunk seals. Also, apply a car body wax to the painted surfaces that mate with the door and trunk seals.

- Cover the car with a "breathable" car cover, one made from a porous material such as cotton. Nonporous materials, such as plastic sheeting, trap moisture, which can damage the paint.
- If possible, run the engine for a while periodically (preferably once a month).

If you store your car for 12 months or longer, have your Acura dealer perform the inspections called for in the 24 months/30,000 miles (48,000 km) maintenance schedule (Normal Conditions) as soon as you take it out of storage (see page [154](#)). The replacements called for in the maintenance schedule are not needed unless the car has actually reached that time or mileage.

Regular cleaning and polishing of your Acura helps to keep it "new" looking. This section gives you hints on how to clean your car and preserve its appearance: the paint, brightwork, wheels and interior. Also included are several things you can do to help prevent corrosion.

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## Exterior Care

---

### NOTICE

*Although the exterior panels on your NSX are made of hardened aluminum, they may dent more easily than steel under some conditions. Exercise care when leaning on or over any part of the body.*

### Washing

Frequent washing helps preserve your car's beauty. Dirt and grit can scratch the paint, while tree sap and bird droppings can permanently ruin the finish.

Wash your car in a shady area, not in direct sunlight. If the car is parked in the sun, move it into the shade and let the exterior cool down before you start.

Only use the solvents and cleaners recommended in this Owner's Manual.

### NOTICE

*Chemical solvents and strong cleaners can damage the paint, metal, and plastic on your car.*

- Rinse the car thoroughly with cool water to remove loose dirt.
- Fill a bucket with cool water. Mix in a mild detergent, such as dishwashing liquid or a product made especially for car washing.
- Wash the car using the water and detergent solution and a soft-bristle brush, sponge, or soft cloth. Start at the top and work your way down. Rinse frequently.

- Check the body for road tar, tree sap, etc. Remove these stains with tar remover or turpentine. Rinse it off immediately so it does not harm the finish. Remember to re-wax these areas, even if the rest of the car does not need waxing.
- When you have washed and rinsed the whole exterior, dry it with a chamois or soft towel. Letting it air-dry will cause dulling and water spots.

As you dry the car, inspect it for chips and scratches that could allow corrosion to start. Repair them with touch-up paint (see page [208](#)).

### **Power Antenna Cleaning**

Twice a year, clean the antenna mast with a dry cloth and mild detergent. Scrub the antenna in upward strokes to avoid bending it. Rinse with water.

Make sure the antenna works smoothly by turning the stereo off and on several times with the ignition switch ON (II). The antenna does not need lubricating.

If you use a "drive-through" car wash, make sure you turn the stereo off first. This retracts the antenna to prevent damage from the car wash brushes.

### **Waxing**

Always wash and dry the whole car before waxing it. You should wax your car, including the metal trim, whenever water sits on the surface in large patches. It should form into beads or droplets after waxing.

You should use a quality liquid or paste wax. Apply it according to the instructions on the container. In general, there are two types of products:

**Waxes** — A wax coats the finish and protects it from damage by exposure to sunlight, air pollution, etc. You should use a wax on your Acura when it is new.

**Polishes** — Polishes and cleaner/waxes can restore the shine to paint that has oxidized and lost some of its shine. They normally contain mild abrasives and solvents that remove the top layer of the finish. You should use a polish on your Acura if the finish does not have its original shine after using a wax.

Cleaning tar, insects, etc. with removers also takes off the wax. Remember to re-wax those areas, even if the rest of the car does not need waxing.

## Exterior Care

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### Aluminum Wheels

Clean your Acura's aluminum alloy wheels as you do the rest of the exterior. Wash them with the same solution, and rinse them thoroughly.

The wheels have a protective clear-coat that keeps the aluminum from corroding and tarnishing. Using harsh chemicals, including some commercial wheel cleaners, or stiff brushes can damage this clear-coat. Only use a mild detergent and soft brush or sponge to clean the wheels.

### Paint Touch-up

Your dealer has touch-up paint to match your car's color. The color code is printed on a sticker on the driver's doorjamb. Take this code to your dealer so you are sure to get the correct color. Although bare aluminum does not "rust" like bare metal, it will corrode and turn to dull gray if left unprotected.

Inspect your car frequently for chips or scratches in the paint. Repair them right away to prevent corrosion of the metal underneath. Use the touch-up paint only on small chips and scratches. More extensive paint damage should be repaired by a professional.

### **Carpeting**

Vacuum the carpeting frequently to remove dirt. Ground-in dirt will make the carpet wear out faster.

Periodically shampoo the carpet to keep it looking new. Use one of the foam-type carpet cleaners on the market. Follow the instructions that come with the cleaner, applying it with a sponge or soft brush. Keep the carpeting as dry as possible by not adding water to the foam.

### **Fabric**

Vacuum dirt and dust out of the material frequently. For general cleaning, use a solution of mild soap and lukewarm water, letting it air dry. To clean off stubborn spots, use a commercially-available fabric cleaner. Test it on a hidden area of the fabric first, to make sure it does not bleach or stain the fabric. Follow the instructions that come with the cleaner.

### **Vinyl**

Remove dirt and dust with a vacuum cleaner. Wipe the vinyl with a soft cloth dampened in a solution of mild soap and water. Use the same solution with a soft-bristle brush on more difficult spots. You can also use commercially-available spray or foam-type vinyl cleaners.

### **Leather**

Vacuum dirt and dust from the leather frequently. Pay particular attention to the pleats and seams. Clean the leather with a soft cloth dampened with clear water, then buff it with a clean, dry cloth. If further cleaning is needed, use a soap specifically for leather, such as saddle soap. Apply this soap with a damp, soft cloth. Wipe down and buff as described above.

### **Seat Belts**

If your seat belts get dirty, you can use a soft brush with a mixture of mild soap and warm water to clean them. Do not use bleach, dye, or cleaning solvents. They can weaken the belt material. Let the belts air-dry before you use the car.



## Interior Care, Corrosion Protection

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### Windows

Clean the windows, inside and out, with a commercially-available glass cleaner. You can also use a mixture of one part white vinegar to ten parts water. This will remove the haze that builds up on the inside of the windows. Use a soft cloth or paper towels to clean all glass and clear plastic surfaces.

#### NOTICE

*The rear window defogger and antenna wires are bonded to the inside of the glass. Wiping vigorously up-and-down can dislodge and break these wires. When cleaning the rear window, use gentle pressure and wipe side-to-side.*

### Air Fresheners

If you want to use an air freshener/deodorizer in the interior of your car, it is best to use a solid type. Some liquid air fresheners contain chemicals that may cause parts of the interior trim and fabric to crack or discolor.

If you use a liquid air freshener, make sure you fasten it securely so it does not spill as you drive.

### Corrosion Protection

Two factors normally contribute to causing corrosion in your car:

1. Moisture trapped in body cavities. Dirt and road salt that collects in hollows on the underside of the car stays damp, promoting corrosion in that area.
2. Removal of paint and protective coatings from the exterior and underside of the car.

Many corrosion-preventive measures are built into your Acura. You can help keep your car from corroding by performing some simple periodic maintenance:

- Repair chips and scratches in the paint as soon as you discover them.
  - Inspect and clean out the drain holes in the bottom of the doors and body.
  - Check the floor coverings for dampness. Carpeting and floor mats may remain damp for a long time, especially in winter. This dampness can eventually cause the floor panels to corrode.
- Use a high-pressure spray to clean the underside of your car. This is especially important in areas that use road salt in winter. It is also a good idea in humid climates and areas subject to salt air. Be careful of the ABS wheel sensors and wiring at each wheel.
  - Have the corrosion-preventive coatings on the underside of your car inspected and repaired periodically.

### **Body Repairs**

The entire body and undercarriage of your NSX is made of aluminum. Aluminum has different properties than steel, so special techniques are required to do successful body repair.

Acura recognizes the uniqueness of the NSX. Many dealers and other body repair facilities have been given the special training and equipment needed to do professional repairs on your car. If your NSX ever needs body repair, contact the Acura Customer Relations Office for the location of a facility near you.

Repair facilities approved by Acura will use genuine replacement body parts. That may not be the case if you take your car somewhere else. Make sure the replacement body parts are Genuine Acura body parts.

*CONTINUED*

## Body Repairs

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Make sure the repair facility uses Genuine Acura replacement body parts. Some companies make sheet metal pieces that seem to duplicate the original Acura body parts, but are actually inferior in fit, finish, and corrosion resistance. Once installed, they do not give the same high-quality appearance.

Inspect areas of the body that have been repaired rather than replaced. Try to look at the inside surfaces. Make sure the repair included reapplication of corrosion-preventive coatings. Bare metal corrodes very fast.

If you have any doubts about replaced or repaired body parts and whether corrosion-prevention measures were used during the repair, take the car to your Acura dealer for inspection.

This section covers the more-common problems that motorists experience with their cars. It gives you information about how to safely evaluate the problem and what to do to correct it. If the problem has stranded you on the side of the road, you may be able to get going again. If not, you will also find instructions on getting your car towed.

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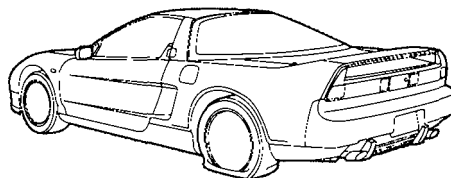
## Changing a Flat Tire

If you have a flat tire while driving, stop in a safe place to change it. Stopping in traffic or on the shoulder of a busy road is dangerous. Drive slowly along the shoulder until you get to an exit or an area to stop that is far away from the traffic lanes.

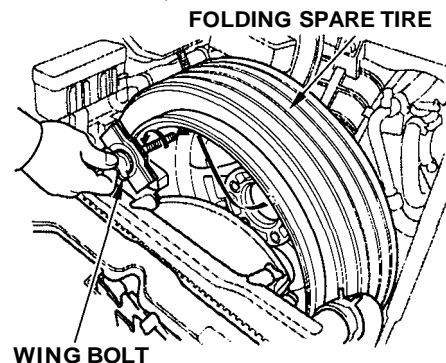
### **WARNING**

The car can easily roll off the jack, seriously injuring anyone underneath.

Follow the directions for changing a tire exactly, and never get under the car when it is supported only by the jack.



1. Park the car on firm, level ground away from traffic. Turn on the hazard warning lights and turn the ignition to LOCK (0).
2. Put the transmission in Park (automatic) or Reverse (manual). Apply the parking brake. Have your passenger get out of the car while you change the tire.

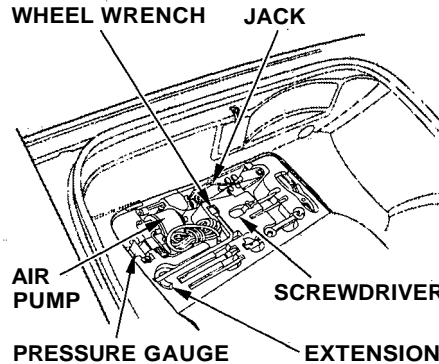


3. Open the hood (see page [120](#)). Unscrew the wing bolt holding the folding spare tire. Remove the folding spare tire from the compartment. The wing bolt and wheel may be very warm from the air passing through the radiator. Use a cloth or gloves (not provided) to protect your hands when removing the spare tire.

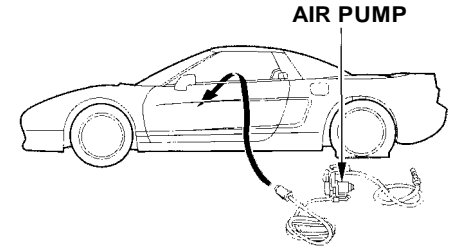
## Changing a Flat Tire

### CAUTION

The radiator's electric fan runs automatically, even with the ignition off. The fan's blades can injure you. Keep your hands, arms, and clothing away from the fan when removing the spare tire.



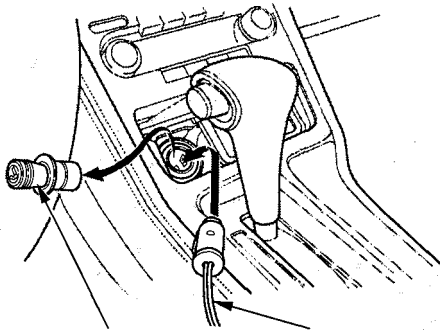
4. Open the trunk (see page 56). Lift the cover; remove the jack, wheel wrench, extension, air pump, pressure gauge, and screwdriver from the trunk. The tools may become very hot while the car is being driven. Wear gloves or use a protective cloth when handling the tools.



5. Place the air pump near the flat tire. Open the nearest window, and route the air pump's power cord through the open window.

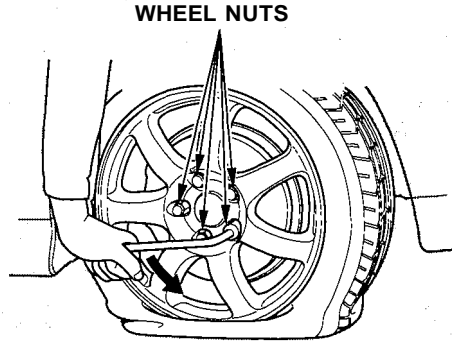
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## Changing a Flat Tire



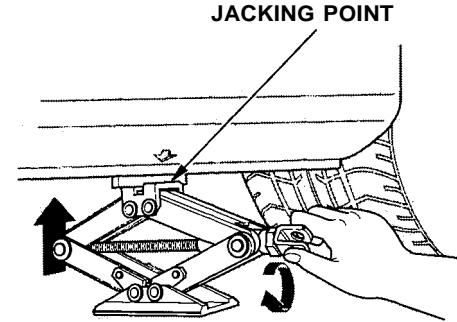
CIGARETTE LIGHTER    POWER CORD

6. Remove the cigarette lighter from its socket and plug the power cord end into the socket. Make sure the key is in the ignition switch at LOCK (0).



WHEEL NUTS

7. Loosen the five wheel nuts 1/2 turn with the wheel wrench.



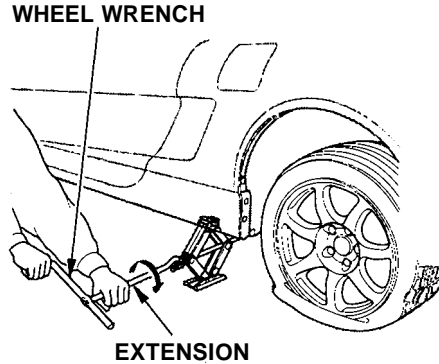
JACKING POINT

8. Locate the jacking point nearest the tire you need to change. It is pointed to by an arrow molded into the underside of the body. Place the jack under the jacking point. Turn the end bracket clockwise until the top of the jack contacts the jacking point. Make sure the jacking point tab is resting in the jack notch.

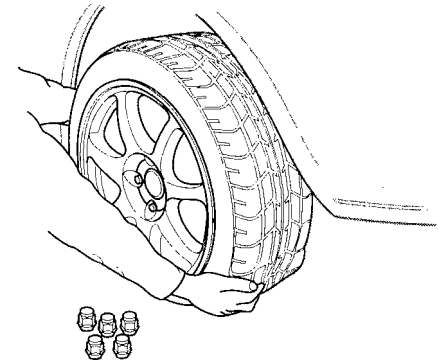
## Changing a Flat Tire

### NOTICE

*Garage-type floor jacks and jacks of similar design can damage your car's underbody, even if they are located on the jacking point. Only use the scissors jack that comes with your NSX to raise the car.*



9. Use the extension and wheel wrench as shown to raise the car until the flat tire is off the ground.



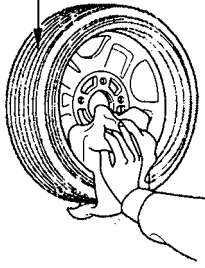
10. Remove the wheel nuts and flat tire. Temporarily place the flat tire on the ground with the outside surface of the aluminum wheel facing up. Placing the wheel face down could mar its finish.

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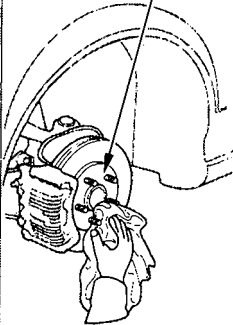


## Changing a Flat Tire

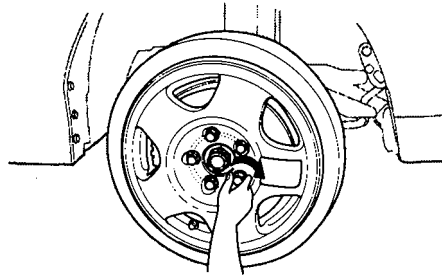
FOLDING SPARE TIRE



BRAKE HUB



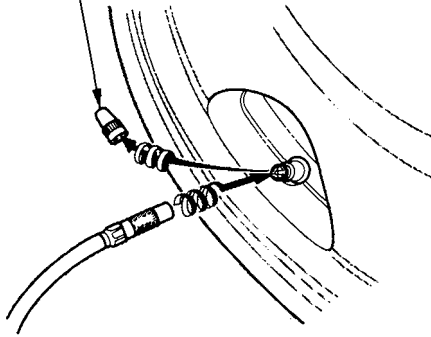
11. Before you put on the folding spare tire, wipe any dirt off the mounting surface of the wheel and hub with a clean cloth. This will assure a tight, even contact between the wheel and hub.



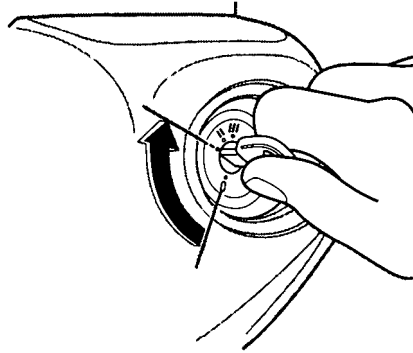
12. Put on the folding spare tire with the air valve toward the bottom. Put the wheel nuts back on finger-tight, then tighten them in a crisscross pattern with the wheel wrench until the wheel is firmly against the hub. Do not try to tighten them fully. Inflate the folding spare tire only when it is on the car. Inflating it while it is lying on the ground may trap stones or other foreign matter between the tire and the wheel rim.

## Changing a Flat Tire

VALVE CAP



13. Unscrew the valve cap from the folding spare tire's air valve by turning it counterclockwise. Then screw on the air pump hose.



14. Reach into the car and turn the ignition switch to ACCESSORY (I). This will start the air pump to inflate the tire.

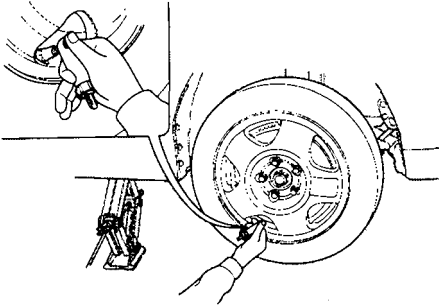
### NOTICE

*Do not climb into the car when it is on the jack. You could cause the car to roll off the jack, damaging the suspension and body.*

*Keep your fingers and clothing away as the tire inflates and unfolds from its compact size.*

CONTINUED

## Changing a Flat Tire



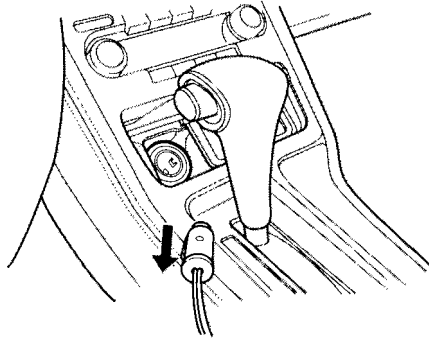
15. After about five minutes, unscrew the air pump hose and check the pressure with the supplied pressure gauge. Inflate to:

Front:

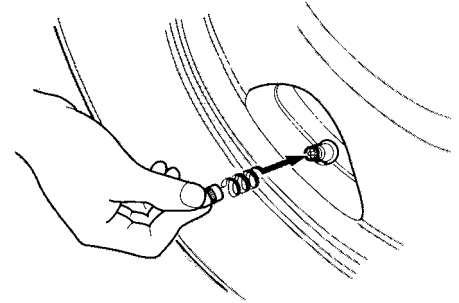
26 psi (1.8 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 180 kPa)

Rear:

32 psi (2.2 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 220 kPa)

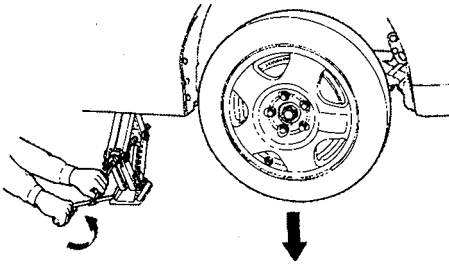


16. When finished, reach in and turn the ignition switch to LOCK (0). Unplug the air pump power cord.

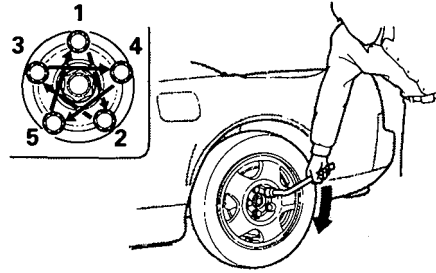


17. Screw the valve cap on the valve tightly with your hands.

## Changing a Flat Tire

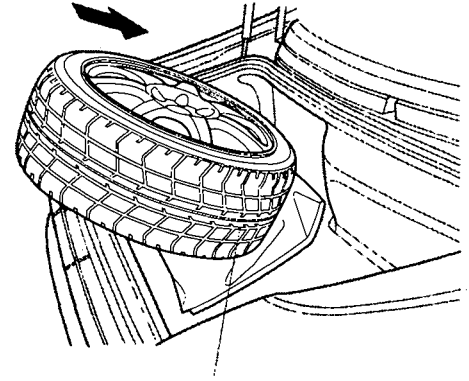


18. Lower the car to the ground and remove the jack.



19. Tighten the wheel nuts securely in the same crisscross pattern. Have the wheel nut torque checked at the nearest automotive service facility.

Tighten the wheel nuts to:  
108 N·m (11 kgf·m , 80 lbf·ft)

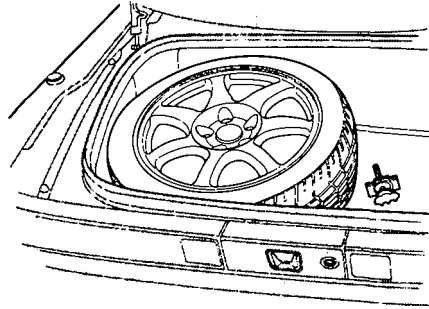


20. Store the jack, wheel wrench, extension, air pump, pressure gauge, screwdriver, and flat tire in the trunk.

*CONTINUED*

## Changing a Flat Tire

To store the flat tire, put a sheet of paper on the contact surface of the tire and the trunk well as shown in the illustration. Slide the tire in the trunk well with the outside surface of the aluminum wheel facing up.



21. Temporarily keep the wing bolt in the trunk as well. See **Replacing Tires and Wheels** on page [193](#) for tire replacement.

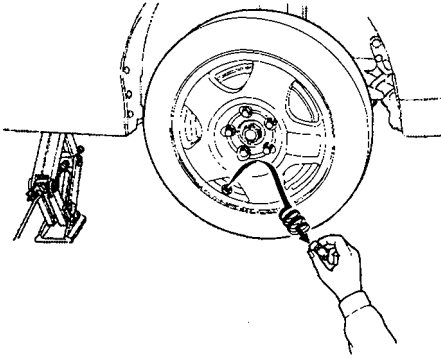
### Storing the Folding Spare Tire

Before returning the folding spare tire to its compartment, you must let out all the air. It will fold back to its original space saving shape.

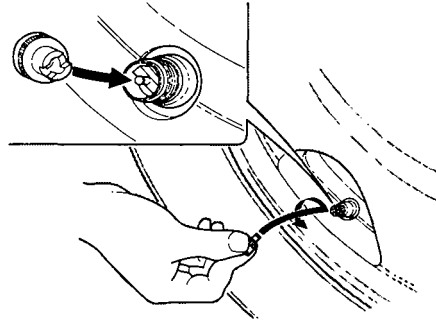
The folding spare tire must be off the ground when you let the air out. It is best to deflate the folding spare tire while it is still mounted on the car. This prevents foreign material from being trapped between the wheel and tire.

1. If the folding spare tire is still on the car, follow the instructions under **Changing a Flat Tire** to loosen the wheel nuts and jack up the car.

## Changing a Flat Tire



2. Unscrew and remove the folding spare tire valve cap.

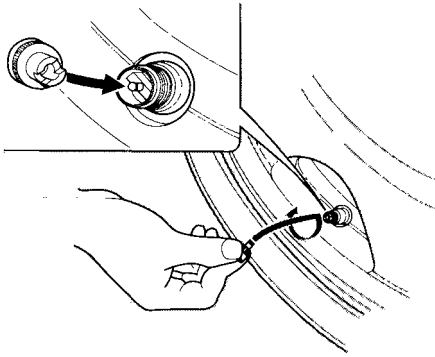


3. Remove the rubber cover on top of the valve cap. Use the notch on the valve cap to unscrew the spare tire valve core until the air starts coming out. Use your hand to shield your eyes. The valve core can fly out under pressure.

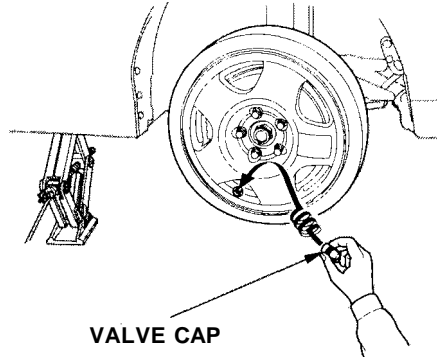
Keep your fingers and clothing away as the tire deflates and folds back to its compact size.

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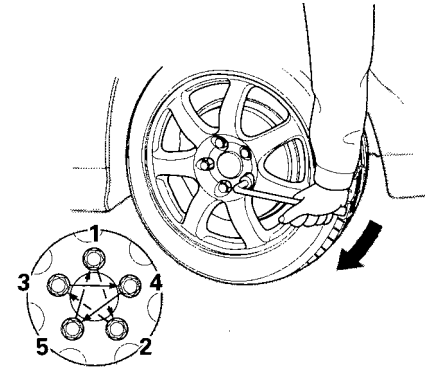
## Changing a Flat Tire



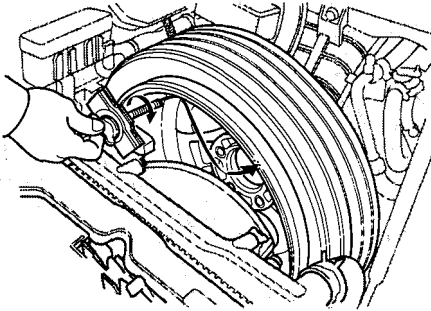
4. As the tire deflates, it will fold back to its original shape. When the air stops coming out of the tire, use the notch on the valve cap to tighten the valve core.



5. Put the rubber cap back on the valve cap. Screw the valve cap back on the folding spare tire valve.



6. Remove the folding spare tire and install the original tire and wheel nuts. Lower the car and tighten the wheel nuts securely in a criss-cross pattern. Tighten to: 80 lbf·ft (11 kgf·m, 108 N·m)



7. Store the folding spare tire in the front compartment with the outside surface of the wheel contacting the bracket of the spare tire well. Securely tighten the wing bolt.

### Air Pump

The air pump that comes with your NSX is designed specifically to inflate the folding spare tire. Follow these precautions:

- Connect the air pump only to a 12 V car battery. Connecting it to any other power source could damage the air pump.
- Applying oil to any component of the air pump is not necessary.
- The surface of the air pump will become hot during use. Do not touch the air pump while in use.
- Continuous operation for more than 15 minutes could damage the air pump. Let it cool down before using it again.

### Folding Spare Tire

Your car comes with a folding spare tire. Use this spare tire as a temporary replacement only. Get your regular tire replaced and put back on your car as soon as you can.

Follow these precautions whenever you are using the folding spare tire:

- Inflate or deflate the spare tire only when it is on the car. Inflating it on the ground may trap stones or other foreign matter between the tire and the wheel rim.
- Do not exceed 50 mph (80 km/h) under any circumstances.

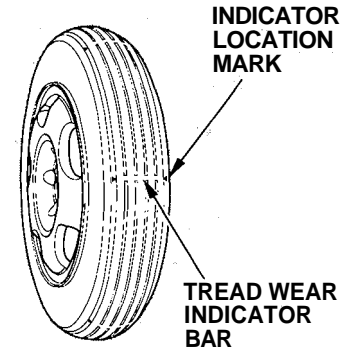
*CONTINUED*



## Changing a Flat Tire

- This tire gives a harsher ride and less traction on some road surfaces than the regular tire. Use greater caution while driving on this tire.
- The spare tire is smaller than the regular tire, reducing your car's ground clearance. Such things as road debris and parking lot speed bumps could possibly damage the underside of your car.
- Do not take your car to an automatic car wash when the spare tire is mounted. Because of the reduced ground clearance, the underside of your car could be damaged by the mechanism that pulls the car through the car wash.

- The wheel of the folding spare tire is designed especially to fit your car. Do not use your spare tire on another car unless it is the same make and model.
- The folding spare tire cannot be repaired. Special equipment is required to remove it from the rim and install a new tire. If it is damaged, replace it with a folding spare tire of the same design. New spare tires are available at your Acura dealer.
- Do not mount snow chains on the folding spare tire.



The folding spare tire has a shorter tread life than a regular tire. Replace it when you can see the tread wear indicator bars. The spare tire is not designed to be mounted on a regular wheel, and the compact wheel is not designed for mounting a regular tire.

Diagnosing why your engine won't start falls into two areas, depending on what you hear when you turn the key to START (III):

- You hear nothing, or almost nothing. The engine's starter motor does not operate at all, or operates very slowly.
- You can hear the starter motor operating normally, or the starter motor sounds like it is spinning faster than normal, but the engine does not start up and run.

### **Nothing Happens or the Starter Motor Operates Very Slowly**

When you turn the ignition switch to START (III), you do not hear the normal noise of the engine trying to start. You may hear a clicking sound or series of clicks, or nothing at all. Check these things:

Your vehicle has the Immobilizer System. You should use a properly-coded master or valet key to start the engine (see page 52). A key that is not properly coded will cause the immobilizer system indicator in the dash panel to blink rapidly.

- Check the transmission interlock. If you have a manual transmission, the clutch pedal must be pushed all the way to the floor or the starter will not operate. With an automatic transmission, it must be in Park or Neutral.
- Turn the ignition switch to ON (II). Check the voltmeter reading. Turn on the headlights and check their brightness. If the voltmeter does not register and the headlights are very dim or don't light at all, the battery is discharged. See **Jump Starting** on page 229.

- If the voltmeter reads normally and the headlights are bright, turn the key to START (III) then release it.
- Turn the ignition switch to START (III). If the headlights do not dim, check the condition of the fuses. If the fuses are OK, there is probably something wrong with the electrical circuit for the ignition switch or starter motor. You will need a qualified technician to determine the problem. (See **Towing** on page 246.)

*CONTINUED*

## If Your Engine Won't Start

---

If the headlights dim noticeably or go out when you try to start the engine, either the battery is discharged or the connections are corroded. Check the condition of the battery and terminal connections (see page [182](#)). You can then try jump starting the car from a booster battery (see page [229](#)).

### The Starter Operates Normally

In this case, the starter motor's speed sounds normal, or even faster than normal, when you turn the ignition switch to START (III), but the engine does not run.

- Are you using the proper starting procedure? Refer to **Starting the Engine** on page [129](#).
- Do you have fuel? Turn the ignition switch to ON (II) for a minute and watch the fuel gauge. The low fuel level warning light may not be working, so you were not reminded to fill the tank.

- There may be an electrical problem, such as no power to the fuel pump. Check all the fuses (see page [239](#)).

If you find nothing wrong, you will need a qualified technician to find the problem. See **Towing** on page [246](#).

If your car's battery has run down, you may be able to start the engine by using a booster battery. Although this seems like a simple procedure, you should take several precautions.

### **WARNING**

A battery can explode if you do not follow the correct procedure, seriously injuring anyone nearby.

Keep all sparks, open flames, and smoking materials away from the battery.

You cannot start an Acura with an automatic transmission by pushing or pulling it.

To jump start your car, follow these directions closely:

1. Open the hood and check the physical condition of the battery (see page 182). In very cold weather, check the condition of the electrolyte. If it seems slushy or like ice, do not try jump starting until it thaws.

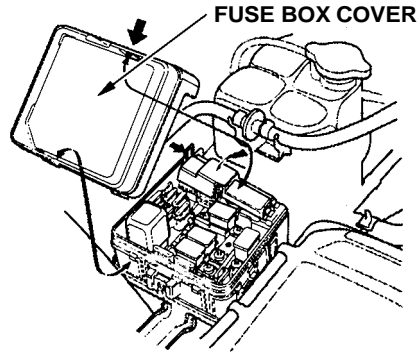
### **NOTICE**

*If a battery sits in extreme cold, the electrolyte inside can freeze. Attempting to jump start with a frozen battery can cause it to rupture.*

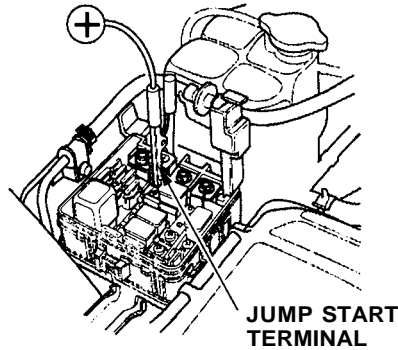
2. Turn off all the electrical accessories: climate control, stereo system, lights, etc.  
Put the transmission in Neutral or Park and set the parking brake.

CONTINUED

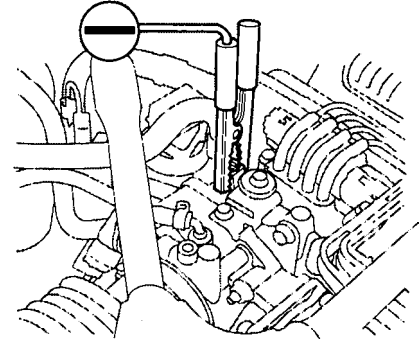
## Jump Starting



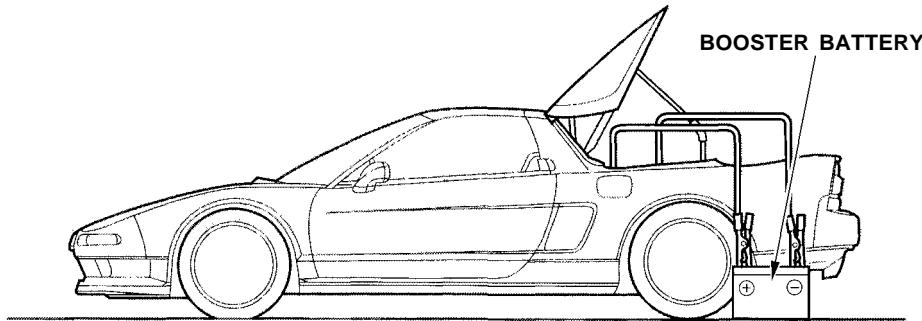
3. Open the rear window and engine cover. Locate the engine compartment fuse box on the driver's side of the compartment. Remove the fuse box cover.



4. Connect one jumper cable to the positive (+) terminal on the booster battery. Connect the other end to the JUMP START terminal in the fuse box.



5. Connect the second jumper cable to the negative (-) terminal on the booster battery. Connect the other end to the boss on the intake manifold as shown. Do not connect this jumper cable to any other part of the engine.



6. If the booster battery is in another car, have an assistant start that car and run it at a fast idle.

7. Start your car. If the starter motor still operates slowly, check the jumper cable connections to make sure they have good metal-to-metal contact.

8. Once your car is running, disconnect the negative cable from your car, then from the booster battery. Disconnect the positive cable from your car, then the booster battery.

## If Your Engine Overheats

---

The pointer of your car's temperature gauge should stay in the mid-range under most conditions. It may go higher if you are driving up a long steep hill on a very hot day. If it climbs to the red mark, you should determine the reason.

### NOTICE

*Driving with the temperature gauge pointer at the red mark can cause serious damage to your engine.*

Your car can overheat for several reasons, such as lack of coolant or a mechanical problem. The only indication may be the temperature gauge climbing to or above the red mark. Or you may see steam or spray coming from under the car or engine cover. In either case, you should take immediate action.

### **WARNING**

Steam and spray from an overheated engine can seriously scald you.

Do not open the hood if steam is coming out.

1. Safely pull to the side of the road. Put the transmission in Neutral or Park and set the parking brake. Turn off the climate control and all other accessories. Turn on the hazard warning indicators.
2. If you see steam and/or spray coming from under the hood, turn off the engine.
3. If you do not see steam or spray, leave the engine running and watch the temperature gauge. If the high heat is due to overloading (climbing a long, steep hill on a hot day with the A/C running, for example), the engine should start to cool down almost immediately. If it does, wait until the temperature gauge comes down to the mid-point then continue driving.
4. If the temperature gauge stays at the red mark, turn off the engine.
5. Wait until you see no more signs of steam or spray, then open the front hood and engine cover.

## If Your Engine Overheats

6. Look for any obvious coolant leaks, such as a split radiator hose. Everything is still extremely hot, so use caution. If you find a leak, it must be repaired before you continue driving (see **Towing** on page 246).

### **WARNING**

Removing the expansion tank cap while the engine is hot can cause the coolant to spray out, seriously scalding you.

Always let the engine and radiator cool down before removing the expansion tank cap.

7. If you don't find an obvious leak, check the coolant level in the expansion tank (see page 120).
8. If the expansion tank needs coolant, you will have to remove the cap. Before doing that, turn the ignition switch ON (II) and check the temperature gauge. Remove the expansion tank cap **ONLY** if the temperature gauge pointer has come down to normal or below and you do not hear any bubbling or gurgling noises coming from the cooling system.

9. Use a cloth or glove to protect your hand while removing the expansion tank cap. Without pressing it downward, turn the cap one-quarter turn counterclockwise. Stop and wait for any pressure in the expansion tank to escape. Then press down on the cap and turn it counterclockwise to remove it.

*CONTINUED*



## If Your Engine Overheats

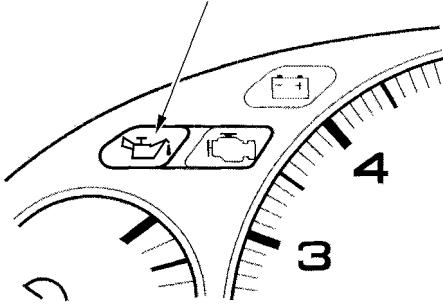
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10. Start the engine and set the climate control to FULL AUTO at 90°F (32° C). Add coolant up to the MAX line on the expansion tank. If you do not have the proper coolant mixture available, you can add plain water. Remember to have the cooling system drained and refilled with the proper mixture as soon as you can.

11. Put the expansion tank cap back on tightly. Run the engine and watch the temperature gauge. If it goes back to the red mark, the engine needs repair. (See **Towing** on page [246](#).)

12. If the temperature stays normal, check the coolant level in the expansion tank. If it has gone down, add coolant to the MAX mark. Put the expansion tank cap back on tightly.

### LOW OIL PRESSURE INDICATOR



This indicator should light when the ignition is ON (II), and go out after the engine starts. It should never come on when the engine is running. If it starts flashing, it indicates that the oil pressure dropped very low for a moment, then recovered. If the indicator stays on with the engine running, it shows that the engine has lost oil pressure and serious engine damage is possible. In either case, you should take immediate action.

### NOTICE

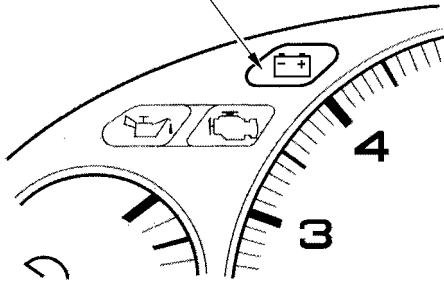
*Running the engine with low oil pressure can cause serious mechanical damage almost immediately. Turn off the engine as soon as you can safely get the car stopped.*

1. Safely pull off the road and shut off the engine. Turn on the hazard warning indicators.
2. Let the car sit for a minute. Open the engine compartment and check the oil level (see page [118](#)). Although oil level and oil pressure are not directly connected, an engine that is very low on oil can lose pressure during cornering and other driving manoeuvres.
3. If necessary, add oil to bring the level back to the full mark on the dipstick (see page [160](#)).

4. Start the engine and watch the oil pressure indicator. If the light does not go out within ten seconds, turn off the engine. There is a mechanical problem that needs to be repaired before you can continue driving. (See **Towing** on page [246](#).)

## Charging System Indicator

CHARGING SYSTEM INDICATOR

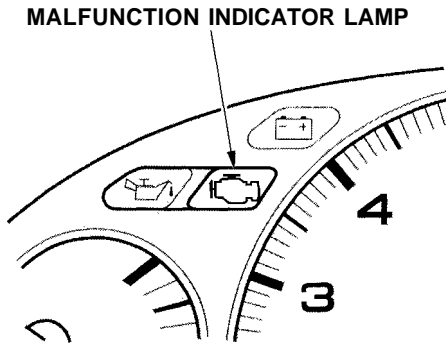


This indicator should come on when the ignition is ON (II), and go out after the engine starts. If it comes on brightly when the engine is running, it indicates that the charging system has stopped charging the battery.

Immediately turn off all electrical accessories: radio, climate control, rear defogger, cruise control, etc. Try not to use other electrically-operated controls such as the power windows. Keep the engine running and take extra care not to stall it. The starter motor uses lots of current and will discharge the battery rapidly. Check the voltmeter as you drive. If there is a problem in the charging system, the voltage will gradually drop.

By eliminating as much of the electrical load as possible, you can drive several miles before the battery is too discharged to keep the engine running. Drive to a service station or garage where you can get technical assistance.

## Malfunction Indicator Lamp



This indicator comes on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch ON (II). If it comes on at any other time, it indicates one of the engine's emissions control systems may have a problem. Even though you may feel no difference in your car's performance, it can reduce your fuel economy and cause your car to put out excessive emissions. Continued operation may cause serious damage.

If this indicator light comes on, safely pull off the road and turn off the engine. Restart the engine and watch the indicator light. If it stays on, have your car checked by the dealer as soon as possible. Drive moderately until the dealer has inspected the problem. Avoid full-throttle acceleration and driving at high speed.

You should also have the dealer inspect your vehicle if this indicator comes on repeatedly, even though it may turn off as you continue driving.

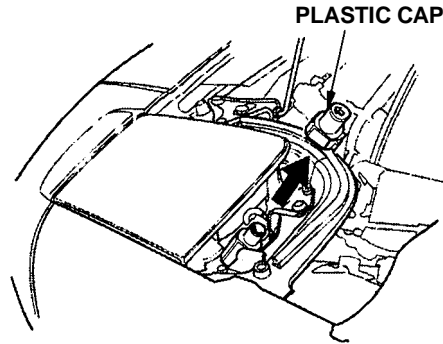
### NOTICE

*If you keep driving with the malfunction indicator lamp on, you can damage your car's emission controls and engine. Those repairs may not be covered by your car's warranties.*

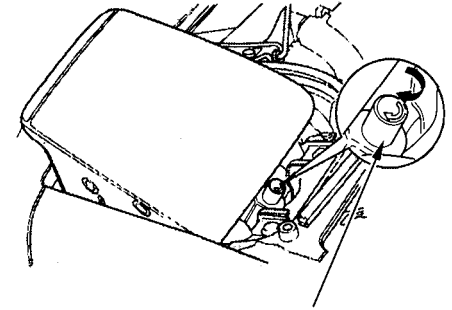
## Getting the Headlights to Pop Up

If both headlights don't pop up when you turn them on, try the headlight motor button on the dashboard (see page 43). If one or both headlights are still down, do the following:

1. Check the fuses for the headlight doors in the underhood fuse box (see page 240). If you find a blown fuse, replace it with a spare fuse and try the headlights.
2. If no fuses are blown, or the replacement fuse blows immediately, remove the fuse for the headlight door or doors that won't open. Put the cover back on the fuse box.

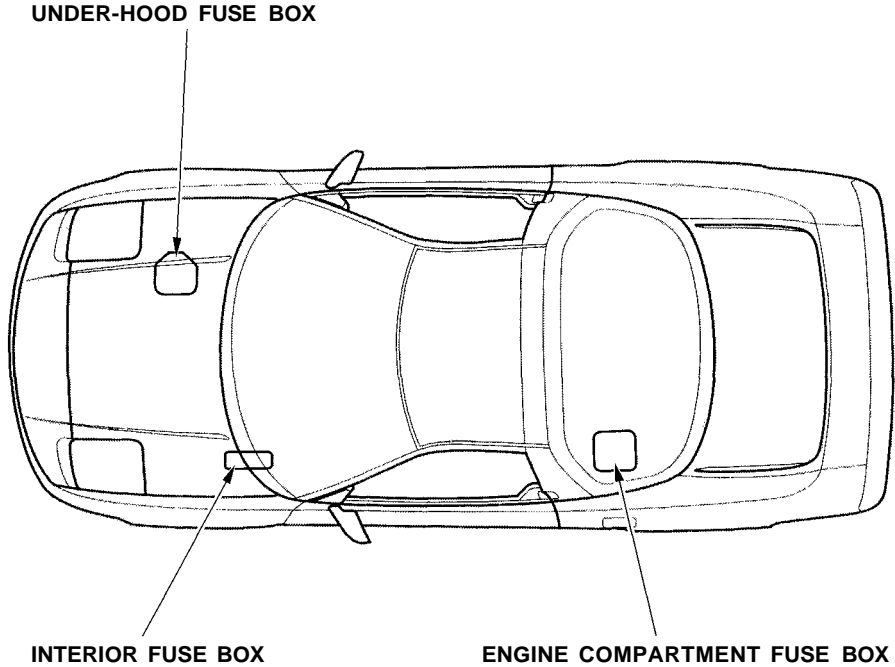


3. Remove the plastic cap on top of the headlight motor.



4. Turn the headlight motor knob clockwise. The headlight door will start to rise. Keep turning until the door is fully open.
5. Put the plastic cap back on the headlight motor with the arrow facing forward. Do not replace the headlight motor fuse until you can have the car checked by the dealer.

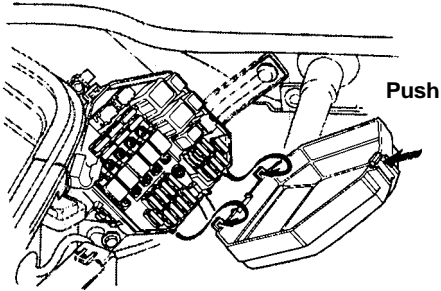
All the electrical circuits in your car have fuses to protect them from a short circuit or overload. These fuses are located in three fuse boxes.



*CONTINUED*

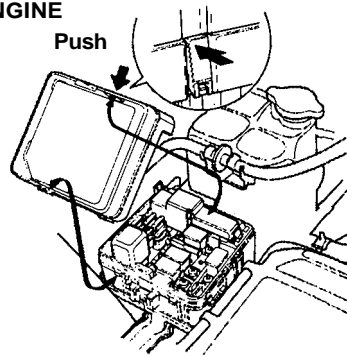
# Fuses

## UNDER-HOOD



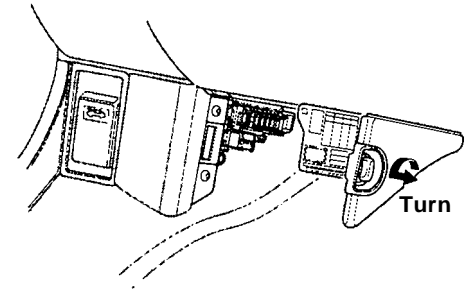
The under-hood fuse box is located in the front of the engine compartment on the passenger's side. To open it, push the tab as shown.

## ENGINE



The engine compartment fuse box is located next to the air cleaner housing. To open, push the tab as shown.

## INTERIOR



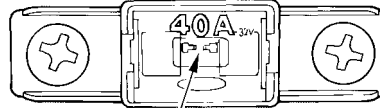
The interior fuse box is underneath the dashboard on the driver's side. To open it, turn the knob as shown.

## Checking and Replacing Fuses

If something electrical in your car stops working, the first thing you should check for is a blown fuse. Determine from the chart on pages 243 and 244, or the diagram on the fuse box lid, which fuse or fuses control that component. Check those fuses first, but check all the fuses before deciding that a blown fuse is not the cause. Replace any blown fuses and check the component's operation.

1. Turn the ignition switch to LOCK (0). Make sure the headlights and all other accessories are off.
2. Remove the cover from the fuse box.

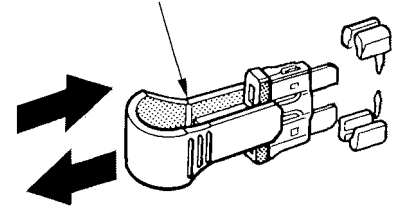
FUSE



BLOWN

3. Check each of the large fuses in the under-hood and engine compartment fuse boxes by looking through the top at the wire inside. Removing these fuses requires a Phillips-head screwdriver.

FUSE PULLER

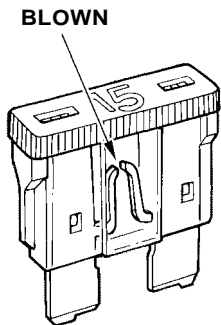


4. Check the smaller fuses by pulling out the fuse with the fuse puller provided in the interior fuse box.

CONTINUED



## Fuses



5. Look for a burned wire inside the fuse. If it is burned, replace it with one of the spare fuses of the same rating or lower.

If you cannot drive the car without fixing the problem, and you do not have a spare fuse, take a fuse of the same rating or a lower rating from one of the other circuits. Make sure you can do without that circuit temporarily (such as the cigarette lighter or radio).

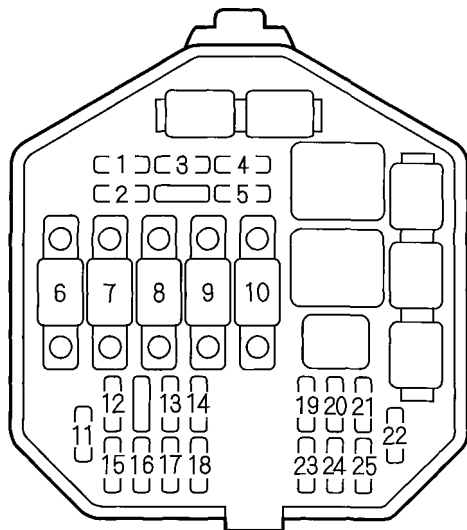
If you replace the blown fuse with a spare fuse that has a lower rating, it might blow out again. This does not indicate anything wrong. Replace the fuse with one of the correct rating as soon as you can.

### NOTICE

*Replacing a fuse with one that has a higher rating greatly increases the chances of damaging the electrical system. If you do not have a replacement fuse with the proper rating for the circuit, install one with a lower rating.*

6. If the replacement fuse of the same rating blows in a short time, there is probably a serious electrical problem in your car. Leave the blown fuse in that circuit and have your car checked by a qualified technician.

## UNDER-HOOD FUSE BOX



No.	Amps.	Circuits Protected
1	20 A	Driver's Power Window
2	20 A	Passenger's Power Window
3	20 A	Speaker Amplifier
4	20 A	Left Headlights
5	20 A	Right Headlights
6	40 A	Wiper Motor
7	50 A	EPS
8	30 A	Blower Motor
9	50 A	Ignition Switch (A)
10	40 A	ABS
11	30 A	Cooling Fan
12	20 A	ABS 1, 4
13	15 A	Right Retractor Motor

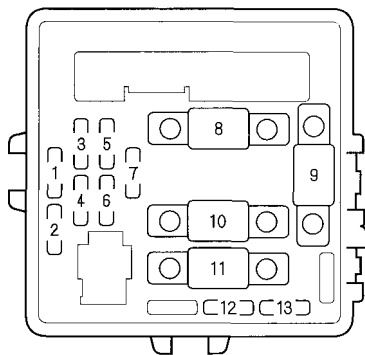
No.	Amps.	Circuits Protected
14	15 A	Left Retractor Motor
15	20 A	ABS 2, 3
16	7.5 A	Digital Clock
17	15 A	Interior Light
18	20 A	Power Door Lock
19	10 A	Daytime Running Lights*
20	20 A	Brake Lights, Horn
21	10 A	Hazard Lights
22	15 A	Left Taillights
23	10 A	Left Condenser Fan
24	10 A	Right Condenser Fan
25	15 A	Illumination Lights

\* : Canadian Model

CONTINUED

# Fuses

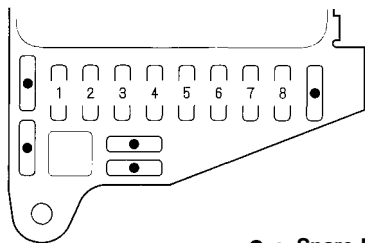
## ENGINE COMPARTMENT FUSE BOX



No.	Amps.	Circuits Protected
1	10 A	Engine Room Fan
2	10 A	HAC Clutch
3	20 A	Passenger's Power Seat Reclining
4	20 A	Driver's Power Seat Reclining
5	20 A	Passenger's Power Seat Slide

No.	Amps.	Circuits Protected
6	20 A	Driver's Power Seat Slide
7	20 A	ACG (S)
8	120 A	ACG
9	30 A	Ignition Coil
10	40 A	Rear Defroster
11	30 A	Ignition Switch (B)
12	20 A	Throttle Motor
13	20 A	Cigarette Lighter

## INTERIOR FUSE BOX



● : Spare Fuse

\* : Canadian Model

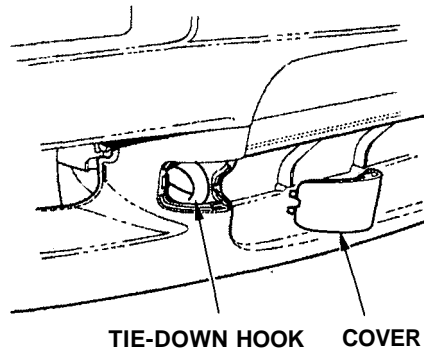
No.	Amps.	Circuits Protected
1	10 A	SRS 1
2	15 A	SRS 2, Fuel Pump
3	7.5 A	Daytime Running Lights*
4	15 A	Heater Control, Rear Defroster Relay, Cooling Fan Control
5	15 A	Back-up Lights, Turn Signals, Alternator
6	7.5 A	Washer

No.	Amps.	Circuits Protected
7	7.5 A	Starter Signal
8	10 A	Radio

If your car gets stuck in sand, mud, or snow, call a towing service to pull it out (see page [246](#)).

### NOTICE

*"Rocking" your car between forward and reverse gear or revving up the engine and allowing the wheels to spin freely at high speeds can damage the automatic transmission. Use a tow service to prevent transmission damage.*



For very short distances such as freeing the car, you can use the tie-down hook on the lower right of the front bumper. Remove the cover to expose the hook. This hook is not for open-road towing (see **Towing**, page [246](#)).

## Towing

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If your car needs to be towed, call a professional towing service or, if you belong to one, an organization that provides roadside assistance. Never tow your car behind another car with just a rope or chain. It is very dangerous.

### **Emergency Towing**

There are three popular methods of towing a car:

***Flat-bed Equipment*** — The operator loads your car on the back of a truck. **This is the only recommended way of transporting your NSX.**

***Wheel Lift Equipment*** — The tow truck uses two pivoting arms that go under the tires (front or rear) and lift them off the ground. The other two wheels remain on the ground. This towing method is not recommended. Because of your car's low ground clearance, the body can be damaged going over large bumps or up inclines.

***Sling-type Equipment*** — The tow truck uses metal cables with hooks on the ends. These hooks go around parts of the frame or suspension and the cables lift that end of the car off the ground. Your car's suspension and body can be seriously damaged if this method of towing is attempted.

If your NSX cannot be transported by flat-bed, it should be towed with the rear wheels off the ground. If, due to damage, your car must be towed with the rear wheels on the ground, do the following:

### **6-speed Manual Transmission**

- Release the parking brake.
- Shift the transmission to Neutral.

### **Automatic Transmission**

- Release the parking brake.
- Start the engine.
- Shift to D, then to N.
- Turn off the engine.

### **NOTICE**

*Improper towing preparation will damage the transmission. Follow the above procedure exactly. If you cannot shift the transmission or start the engine (automatic transmission), your car must be transported on a flat-bed.*

- It is best to tow the car no farther than 50 miles (80 km), and keep the speed below 35 mph (55 km/h).

### **NOTICE**

*Trying to lift or tow your car by the bumpers will cause serious damage. The bumpers are not designed to support the car's weight.*

The diagrams in this section give you the dimensions and capacities of your Acura, and the locations of the identification numbers. The explanations of several electronic and mechanical systems on your Acura are for the more technically-oriented owner.

Identification Numbers.....	250	Emission Controls .....	258
Specifications .....	252	The Clean Air Act.....	258
Traction Control System.....	254	Crankcase Emission Control System.....	258
Tire Information .....	255	Evaporative Emission Control System.....	258
Tire Size Designation.....	255	Exhaust Emission Controls.....	259
Wheel Size Designation.....	255	PGM-FI System .....	259
Tire Speed Ratings.....	255	Ignition Timing Control System.....	259
DOT Tire Quality Grading.....	256	Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) System.....	259
Treadwear .....	256	Three Way Catalytic Converter.....	259
Traction .....	256	Replacement Parts.....	259
Temperature .....	257	Three Way Catalytic Converter....	260

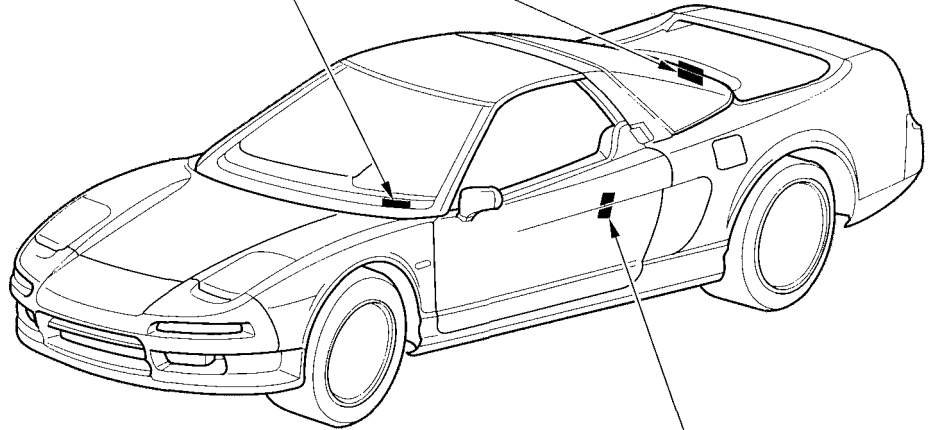
## Identification Numbers

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Your car has several identifying numbers located in various places.

The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is the 17-digit number your Acura dealer uses to register your car for warranty purposes. It is also necessary for licensing and insuring your car. The easiest place to find the VIN is on a plate fastened to the top of the dashboard. You can see it by looking through the windshield on the driver's side. It is also on the Certification label attached to the driver's doorjamb, and is stamped on the engine compartment bulkhead. The VIN is also provided in bar code on the Certification label.

**VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**



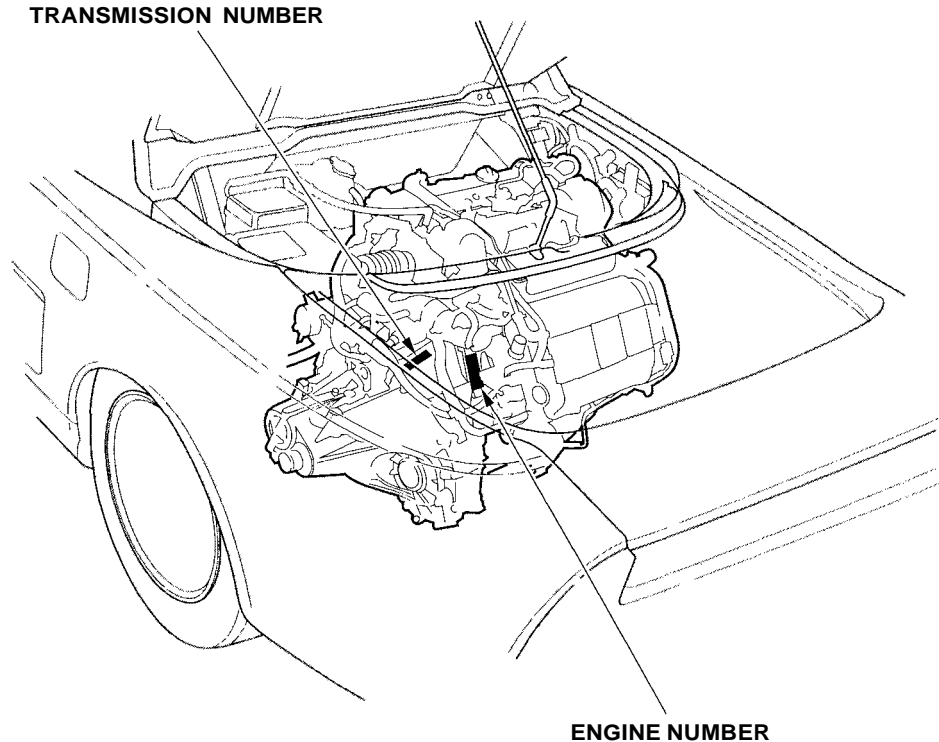
**CERTIFICATION LABEL**



## Identification Numbers

The Engine Number is stamped on the back left corner of the engine block, below the rear valve cover.

The Transmission Number is on a label on top of the transmission.



# Specifications

## Dimensions

Length	4,425 mm (174.2 in)
Width	1,810 mm (71.3 in)
Height	1,175 mm (46.3 in)
Wheelbase	2,530 mm (99.6 in)
Track	1,510 mm (59.4 in)
Front	
Rear	1,530 mm (60.2 in)

## Weights

Gross vehicle weight rating	See the certification label attached to the driver's doorjamb.
-----------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

## Engine

Type	Water cooled 4-stroke DOHC VTEC V-6 gasoline engine
Bore x Stroke	90.0 x 78.0 mm (3.54 x 3.07 in) <sup>*1</sup> 93.0 x 78.0 mm (3.66 x 3.07 in) <sup>*2</sup>
Displacement	2,997 cm <sup>3</sup> (182 cu-in) <sup>*1</sup> 3,179 cm <sup>3</sup> (194 cu-in) <sup>*2</sup>
Compression ratio	10.2 : 1 <sup>*1</sup> 10.2 : 1 <sup>*2</sup>
Spark plugs	See spark plug maintenance section page 181.

\* 1 : 3.0 model (4 AT)

\* 2 : 3.2 model (6 MT)

## Capacities

Fuel tank	Approx. 18.5 US gal (70 ℓ, 15.4 Imp gal)
Engine coolant	
Manual Transmission	
Change <sup>*1</sup>	3.17 US gal (12.0 ℓ, 2.64 Imp gal)
Total	4.23 US gal (16.0 ℓ, 3.52 Imp gal)
Automatic Transmission	
Change <sup>*1</sup>	3.17 US gal (12.0 ℓ, 2.64 Imp gal)
Total	4.36 US gal (16.5 ℓ, 3.63 Imp gal)
Engine oil	Change <sup>*2</sup>
Including filter	5.3 US qt (5.0 ℓ, 4.4 Imp qt)
Without filter	4.5 US qt (4.3 ℓ, 3.8 Imp qt)
Total	6.7 US qt (6.3 ℓ, 5.5 Imp qt)
Manual transmission fluid	Change
Total	2.9 US qt (2.7 ℓ, 2.4 Imp qt)
Automatic transmission fluid	Change
Total	3.1 US qt (2.9 ℓ, 2.6 Imp qt)
Windshield washer reservoir	U.S. Cars Canadian Cars
	2.6 US qt (2.5 ℓ, 2.2 Imp qt) 4.2 US qt (4.0 ℓ, 3.5 Imp qt)

\* 1 : Including the coolant in the expansion tank and that remaining in the engine.

Expansion tank capacity:  
0.55 US gal (2.1 l, 0.46 Imp gal)

\* 2 : Excluding the oil remaining in the engine.

## Lights

Headlights	High	12 V – 65 W (HB3)
		12 V – 60 W (HB3)
	Low	12 V – 55 W (HB4)
		12 V – 51 W (HB4)
Daytime running lights		12 V – 32 CP
Front turn signal lights		12 V – 45 CP (SAE 3497)
Front parking lights		12 V – 6 CP (SAE 3652)
Rear turn signal lights		12 V – 45 CP (SAE 3497)
Stop/Taillights		12 V – 32/2 CP (SAE 2057)
Taillights		12 V – 2 CP (SAE 194)
Side marker lights	Front	12 V – 3 CP (SAE 168)
	Rear	12 V – 3 CP (SAE 168)
Back-up lights		12 V – 32 CP (SAE 1156)
License plate lights		12 V – 8 W
Interior light		12 V – 5 W
Trunk light		12 V – 3.4 W
Door courtesy lights		12 V – 3.4 W

## Air conditioning

Refrigerant type	HFC-134a (R-134a)
Charge quantity	28.2 – 30.0 oz (800 – 850 g)
Lubricant type	ND-OIL8

## Battery

Capacity		
	Manual transmission	12 V – 52 AH/5 HR
	Automatic transmission	12 V – 55 AH/5 HR

## Fuses

Front compartment	See page 243 or the fuse box cover.
Interior	See page 244 or the fuse label attached to the inside of the fuse box door under the dashboard.
Engine compartment	See page 244 or the fuse box cover.

## Alignment

Toe	Front	out 3.5 mm (0.14 in)
	Rear	in 4.0 mm (0.16 in)
Camber	Front	–0°20'
	Rear	–1°30'
Caster	Front	8°

## Tires

Size	Front	215/45ZR16
	Rear	245/40ZR17
	Folding spare Tire	165/75D16
Pressure	Front	33 psi (2.3 kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> , 230 kPa)
	Rear	40 psi (2.8 kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> , 275 kPa)
Folding spare tire	Front	26 psi (1.8 kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> , 180 kPa)
	Rear	32 psi (2.2 kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> , 220 kPa)

## Traction Control System

---

The Traction Control System (TCS) monitors how fast the wheels are turning during acceleration. If one drive wheel is turning faster than the other, or both drive wheels are turning faster than the non-driven wheels, engine power is reduced to increase traction.

The TCS uses the same wheel speed sensor assemblies as the ABS. An additional sensor measures steering wheel angle, while another sensor measures lateral acceleration (cornering force).

The TCS uses the pulse frequencies from the wheel speed sensors to sense wheelspin. Information from the steering wheel angle sensor and the lateral acceleration sensor lets the TCS control unit determine if the car is accelerating in a straight line or if it is cornering. The TCS can then calculate how much wheelspin, if any, to allow.

The NSX has a Drive-By-Wire system that allows the Engine Control Module (ECM) to directly control the throttle valve on the engine. If wheelspin is detected during acceleration, the TCS control unit signals the ECM to close the throttle valve partially to reduce engine power.

If wheel lockup is sensed during deceleration (downshifting on a slippery surface, for example), The TCS control unit signals the ECM to open the throttle valve slightly. This raises engine speed and drive wheel speed.

The control unit monitors the TCS circuitry while driving. If it senses a problem, it turns off the system and illuminates the TCS indicator on the instrument panel.

## Tire Size Designation

A tire's sidewall is marked with a tire size designation. You will need this information when selecting replacement tires for your car. The following explains what the letters and numbers in the tire size designation mean.

(Example tire size designation)  
215/45ZR16

**215** — Tire width in millimeters.

**45** — Aspect ratio. The tire's section height as a percentage of its width.

**ZR** — Speed Category. See the speed rating chart in this section for additional information.

**R** — Tire construction code (Radial).

**16** — Rim diameter in inches.

## Wheel Size Designation

Wheels are also marked with important information that you need if you ever have to replace one. The following explains what the letters and numbers in the wheel size designation mean.

(Example wheel size designation)  
16 x 7 JJ

**16** — Rim diameter in inches.

**7** — Rim width in inches.

**JJ** — Rim contour designation.

## Tire Speed Ratings

The chart below shows many of the different speed ratings currently being used for passenger car tires. The speed symbol is part of the tire size designation on the sidewall of the tire. This symbol corresponds to that tire's designed maximum safe operating speed.

Speed Symbol or Category	Maximum Speed
Q	99 mph (160 km/h)
S	112 mph (180 km/h)
T	118 mph (190 km/h)
H	130 mph (210 km/h)
V	149 mph (240 km/h)
W	168 mph (270 km/h)
ZR	Over 149 mph (240 km/h)

## Tire Information

---

### **DOT Tire Quality Grading (U.S. Cars)**

The tires on your car meet all U.S. Federal Safety Requirements. All tires are also graded for treadwear, traction, and temperature performance according to Department of Transportation (DOT) standards. The following explains these gradings.

#### ***Treadwear***

The treadwear grade is a comparative rating based on the wear rate of the tire when tested under controlled conditions on a specified government test course. For example, a tire graded 150 would wear one and one half (1-1/2) times as well on the government course as a tire graded 100. The relative performance of tires depends upon the actual conditions of their use, however, and may depart significantly from the norm due to variations in driving habits, service practices, and differences in road characteristics and climate.

#### ***Traction***

The traction grades, from highest to lowest, are A, B, and C, and they represent the tire's ability to stop on wet pavement as measured under controlled conditions on specified government test surfaces of asphalt and concrete. A tire marked C may have poor traction performance.

Warning: The traction grade assigned to this tire is based on braking (straight ahead) traction tests and does not include cornering (turning) traction.

### ***Temperature***

The temperature grades are A (the highest), B, and C, representing the tire's resistance to the generation of heat and its ability to dissipate heat when tested under controlled conditions on a specified indoor laboratory test wheel. Sustained high temperature can cause the material of the tire to degenerate and reduce tire life, and excessive temperature can lead to sudden tire failure. The grade C corresponds to a level of performance which all passenger car tires must meet under the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 109. Grades B and A represent higher levels of performance on the laboratory test wheel than the minimum required by law.

Warning: The temperature grade for this tire is established for a tire that is properly inflated and not over-loaded. Excessive speed, underinflation, or excessive loading either separately or in combination, can cause heat build-up and possible tire failure.

## Emission Controls

---

The burning of gasoline in your car's engine produces several byproducts. Some of these are carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and hydrocarbons (HC). Gasoline evaporating from the tank also produces hydrocarbons. Controlling the production of NOx, CO, and HC is important to the environment. Under certain conditions of sunlight and climate, NOx and HC react to form photochemical "smog." Carbon monoxide does not contribute to smog creation, but it is a poisonous gas.

### **The Clean Air Act**

The United States Clean Air Act\* sets standards for automobile emissions. It also requires that automobile manufacturers explain to owners how their emission controls work and what to do to maintain them. This section summarizes how the emission controls work. Scheduled maintenance is on page [154](#).

\* In Canada, Acura vehicles comply with the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS) for Emissions valid at the time they are manufactured.

### **Crankcase Emission Control System**

Your car has a Positive Crankcase Ventilation System. This keeps gasses that build up in the engine's crankcase from going into the atmosphere. The Positive Crankcase Ventilation valve routes them from the crankcase back to the intake manifold. They are then drawn into the engine and burned.

### **Evaporative Emission Control System**

As gasoline evaporates in the fuel tank, an evaporative emission control canister filled with charcoal adsorbs the vapor. It is stored in this canister while the engine is off. After the engine is started and warmed up, the vapor is drawn into the engine and burned during driving.



### **Exhaust Emission Controls**

The exhaust emission controls include four systems: PGM-FI, Ignition Timing Control, Exhaust Gas Recirculation and Three Way Catalytic Converter. These four systems work together to control the engine's combustion and minimize the amount of HC, CO, and NOx that comes out the tailpipe. The exhaust emission control systems are separate from the crankcase and evaporative emission control systems.

### ***PGM-FI System***

The PGM-FI System uses sequential multiport fuel injection. It has three subsystems: Air Intake, Engine Control, and Fuel Control. The Engine Control Module (ECM) uses various sensors to determine how much air is going into the engine. It then controls how much fuel to inject under all operating conditions.

### ***Ignition Timing Control System***

This system constantly adjusts the ignition timing, reducing the amount of HC, CO and NOx produced.

### ***Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) System***

The Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) system takes some of the exhaust gas and routes it back into the intake manifold. Adding exhaust gas to the air/fuel mixture reduces the amount of NOx produced when the fuel is burned.

### ***Three Way Catalytic Converter***

The three way catalytic converter is in the exhaust system. Through chemical reactions, it converts HC, CO, and NOx in the engine's exhaust to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), dinitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>), and water vapor.

### **Replacement Parts**

The emission control systems are designed and certified to work together in reducing emissions to levels that comply with the Clean Air Act. To make sure the emissions remain low, you should use only new Genuine Acura replacement parts or their equivalent for repairs. Using lower quality parts may increase the emissions from your car.

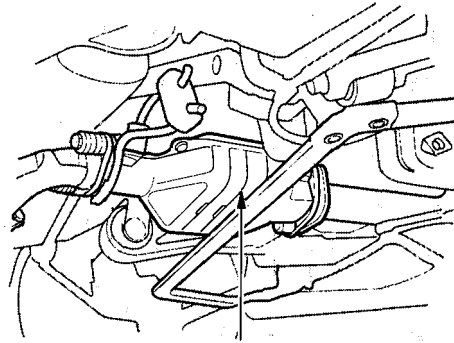
The emissions control systems are covered by warranties separate from the rest of your car. Read your warranty manual for more information.

## Three Way Catalytic Converter

---

The three way catalytic converter contains precious metals that serve as catalysts, promoting chemical reactions to convert the exhaust gasses without affecting the metals. The catalytic converter is referred to as a three-way catalyst, since it acts on HC, CO, and NOx. A replacement unit must be an original Acura part or its equivalent.

The three way catalytic converter must operate at a high temperature for the chemical reactions to take place. It can set on fire any combustible materials that come near it. Park your car away from high grass, dry leaves, or other flammables.



**THREE WAY CATALYTIC CONVERTER**

A defective three way catalytic converter contributes to air pollution, and can impair your engine's performance. Follow these guidelines to protect your car's three way catalytic converter.

- Always use unleaded gasoline. Even a small amount of leaded gasoline can contaminate the catalyst metals, making the three way catalytic converter ineffective.

- Keep the engine tuned-up.
- Have your car diagnosed and repaired if it is misfiring, back-firing, stalling, or otherwise not running properly.

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## Customer Relations Information

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Acura dealership personnel are trained professionals. They should be able to answer all your questions. If you encounter a problem that your dealership does not solve to your satisfaction, please discuss it with the dealership's management. The Service Manager or General Manager can help. Almost all problems are solved in this way.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by the dealership's management, contact the Acura Customer Relations Office.

U.S. Owners:

Acura Automobile Division  
Customer Relations Office  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

or telephone: (800) 382-2238

Canadian Owners:

Refer to the Canadian Zone Office Map on the next page.

When you call or write, please give us this information:

- Vehicle Identification Number (see page 250)
- Name and address of the dealer who services your car
- Date of purchase
- Mileage on your car
- Your name, address, and telephone number
- A detailed description of the problem
- Name of the dealer who sold the car to you

## Canada Zone Office Map

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### **Western Zone**

Honda Canada Inc.  
13240 Worster Court  
Richmond, B.C.  
V6V 2B8  
(604) 278-6504

### **Quebec Zone**

Honda Canada Inc.  
1750 rue Eiffel  
Boucherville, Quebec  
J4B 7W1  
(514)655-6161

### **Central Zone**

Honda Canada Inc.  
715 Milner Avenue  
Scarborough, Ontario  
M1B 2K8  
(416) 299-3400

### **Atlantic Zone**

Honda Canada Inc.  
51 Raddal Avenue  
Suite 1  
Dartmouth, NS  
B3B 1L4  
(902) 468-4416

## Reporting Safety Defects (U.S. Cars)

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If you believe that your vehicle has a defect which could cause a crash or could cause injury or death, you should immediately inform the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in addition to notifying Acura Automobile Division, American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

If NHTSA receives similar complaints, it may open an investigation, and if it finds that a safety defect exists in a group of vehicles, it may order a recall and remedy campaign. However, NHTSA cannot become involved in individual problems between you, your dealer, or Acura Automobile Division, American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

To contact NHTSA, you may either call the Auto Safety Hotline toll-free at 1-800-424-9393 (or 366-0123 in Washington D.C. area) or write to: NHTSA, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. You can also obtain other information about motor vehicle safety from the Hotline.

### **U.S. Owners**

Your new Acura is covered by these warranties:

***New Car Limited Warranty*** — covers your new car, except for the battery, emissions control systems and accessories, against defects in materials and workmanship.

***Emissions Control Systems Defects Warranty and Emissions Performance Warranty*** — these two warranties cover your car's emissions control systems. Time, mileage, and coverage are conditional. Please read the warranty manual for exact information.

***Original Equipment Battery Limited Warranty*** — this warranty gives up to 100 percent credit toward a replacement battery.

***Seat Belt Limited Warranty*** — a seat belt that fails to function properly is covered for the useful life of the car.

***Rust Perforation Limited Warranty*** — all exterior body panels are covered for rust-through from the inside for the specified time period with no mileage limit.

***Accessory Limited Warranty*** — Genuine Acura Accessories are covered under this warranty. Time and mileage limits depend on the type of accessory and other factors. Please read your warranty manual for details.

***Replacement Parts Limited Warranty*** — covers all Genuine Acura replacement parts against defects in materials and workmanship.

***Replacement Battery Limited Warranty*** — provides prorated coverage for a replacement battery purchased from an Acura dealer.

***Replacement Muffler Lifetime Limited Warranty*** — provides coverage for as long as the purchaser of the muffler owns the car.

Restrictions and exclusions apply to all these warranties. Please read the 1997 Acura Warranties booklet that came with your car for precise information on warranty coverages. Your Acura's original tires are covered by their manufacturer. Tire warranty information is in a separate booklet.

### **Canadian Owners**

Please refer to the 1997 Warranty Manual that came with your car.

## Gas Station Information

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### **Gasoline:**

Premium UNLEADED  
Pump octane number of 91 or higher

### **Fuel Tank Capacity:**

18.5 US gal (70 l, 15.4 Imp gal)

### **Recommended Engine Oil:**

API SJ or SH grade  
"Energy Conserving" or  
"Energy Conserving II" oil  
SAE 10W-30 viscosity

### **Tire Pressure (measured cold):**

Front:

33 psi (2.3 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 230 kPa)

Rear:

40 psi (2.8 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 275 kPa)

### **Folding Spare Tire Pressure:**

If used as a spare for either tires

Front:

26 psi (1.8 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 180 kPa)

Rear:

32 psi (2.2 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, 220 kPa)

### **Automatic Transmission Fluid:**

Honda Premium Formula Automatic Transmission Fluid (ATF)



**Purchasing Factory Authorized Manuals (U.S. only)**

The following publications covering the operation and servicing of your vehicle can be obtained from Helm Incorporated, either by filling out the attached form or, for credit card holders, calling the toll-free phone number on the form. For manuals prior to the year shown below, contact Helm Incorporated, P.O. Box 07280, Detroit, Michigan 48207, or call 1-800-782-4356.

Publication Form Number	From Description	Price Each*
61SL006	1997 Acura NSX Service Manual	\$70.00
61SL006EL	1997 Acura NSX Electrical Troubleshooting Manual	\$36.00
61SL032	1995 – 1997 Acura NSX Body Repair Manual	\$36.00
31SL0660	1997 Acura NSX Owner's Manual	\$37.00
ACU-R	Order Form for Previous Years- Indicate Year and Model Desired	FREE

\* Prices are subject to change without notice and without incurring obligation.

*Valid only for sales within the U.S. Canadian owners should contact their authorized Acura dealer.*

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						GRAND TOTAL		



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