

1991 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.

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Gas Station Information

Information you need when you pull up to the fuel pump.

Owner's Identification

OWNER _____

ADDRESS _____
STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

V.I.N. _____ CONTROL No. _____

DELIVERY DATE _____
(Date sold to original retail purchaser)

DEALER NAME _____ DEALER No. _____

ADDRESS _____
STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

OWNER'S SIGNATURE _____

DEALER'S SIGNATURE _____

This Owner's Manual should be considered a permanent part of the vehicle, and must remain with the vehicle at time of resale.

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 without incurring any obligation whatever.

Congratulations on your selection of the 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.

The NSX contains the highest level of automotive technology currently available. Your aluminum-bodied NSX was hand-crafted at a new facility dedicated exclusively to its manufacture. The staff at this factory has made every effort to produce the most thoroughly-tested and trouble-free exotic on the market. Acura's goal is to provide you, the discriminating sports car enthusiast, with the most comfortable, versatile exotic mid-engine car ever produced. As you spend time in your NSX, we're sure you'll agree.

You can enhance the enjoyment of your new car by taking the time to study this manual. In it, you will learn about your car's many convenience and performance systems. We recommend that you follow this manual's service and maintenance recommendations in order to preserve your investment.

Keep this owner's manual in your car so you can refer to it at any time. If you sell your car, make sure this manual stays with it. The next owner will find it just as indispensable.

Several warranties protect your NSX. We suggest you read the warranty booklets in your owner's packet carefully to fully understand the coverages and the responsibilities of ownership.

At the recommended maintenance intervals, keep in mind that your Acura dealer and his service staff are specially-trained in the service, repair and maintenance of the many unique systems of the NSX. Your Acura dealer is dedicated to your satisfaction and will be pleased to answer your questions and concerns.

Best wishes and happy motoring
Acura Division
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

Safety Messages

Your safety and the safety of others is very important. We have provided many important safety messages in this manual and on the vehicle. Please read these messages carefully.

A safety message alerts you to potential hazards that could hurt you or others. Each safety message is preceded by a safety alert symbol  and one of three words, **DANGER**, **WARNING**, or **CAUTION**.

These mean:

 **DANGER**

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

 **WARNING**

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

 **CAUTION**

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

Each safety message tells you what the hazard is, what can happen and what you can do to avoid or reduce injury.

You will also see another important symbol:

NOTICE

Your NSX or other property can be damaged if you don't follow instructions.

Driver and Passenger Safety

This section gives you information about the safety-related labels on your NSX. It also tells you how to use the seat belts, and describes the basic function of the Supplemental Restraint System or "airbag."

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Safety Labels

These labels are in the locations shown. They warn you of potential hazards that could cause seriously 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.

FOLDING SPARE TIRE

AO CO

WARNING

- CAREFULLY READ OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE USING THIS FOLDING SPARE TIRE.
- THIS SPARE TIRE/WHEEL ASSEMBLY IS FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY USE ONLY AND NOT FOR CONTINUOUS USE. REPLACE WITH NEW REGULAR TIRE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REPAIRED TIRES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN GUARANTEE.
- THIS TIRE/WHEEL ASSEMBLY IS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR PROPER FIT AND OPERATION ON THE VEHICLE IT CAME WITH. DO NOT INSTALL ON OTHER VEHICLES.
- DO NOT REPAIR THIS TIRE. DO NOT REMOVE THIS TIRE FROM THE WHEEL.
- DO NOT EXCEED 50 mph (80 km/h).
- DO NOT PUT GOODS OTHER THAN THE SPARE TIRE IN THE PLACE WHERE THE SPARE TIRE IS TO BE STORED.

HOW TO USE THE SPARE TIRE

- BEFORE INFLATING, MOUNT THE SPARE TIRE ON THE CAR AXLE. MAKE SURE THE WHEELNUTS ARE FASTENED. PUT THE REMOVED REGULAR TIRE IN REAR TRUNK.
- INFLATE WITH THE AIR COMPRESSOR PROVIDED. ADJUST TO THE PRESSURE VALUE SPECIFIED BELOW.
INFLATION PRESSURE FOR FRONT USE 180 kPa (26 psi)
INFLATION PRESSURE FOR REAR USE 220 kPa (32 psi)
- TO STORE THE SPARE TIRE, LOOSEN THE VALVE TO COMPLETELY RELEASE THE AIR, FOLD THE TIRE AND RE-TIGHTEN THE VALVE.

BATTERY

⚠ DANGER

EXPLOSIVE GASES Keep sparks, flame and cigarettes away. Provide adequate ventilation when charging or using batteries in an enclosed space.

CHEMICAL HAZARD Contains sulfuric acid. Contact with skin, even through clothing, may cause severe burns. Wear a face shield and protective clothing. If electrolyte gets into your eyes, antidote: flush thoroughly with water for at least 15 minutes and call a physician immediately.

POISON Antidote: 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

Distributed by: AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC. GARDENA, CA 90247

RADIATOR FAN

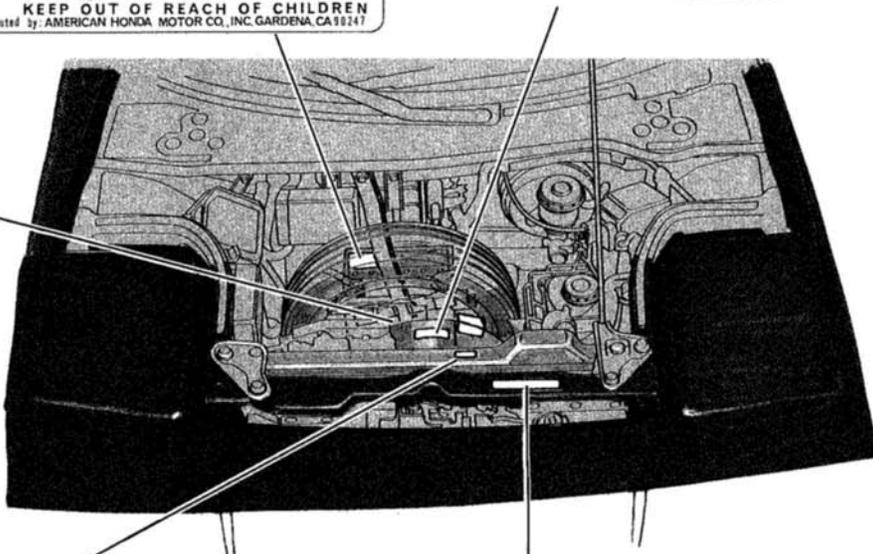
DANGER VORSICHT 危険

▶ KEEP HANDS AWAY
FAN STARTS AUTOMATICALLY.

▶ 手を離さず、ファンが自動的に始まります。

▶ NE PAS APPROCHER LES MAINS LE DEMARRAGE DU VENTILATEUR EST AUTOMATIQUE.

▶ NICHT BERÜHREN
SELBSTEINSCHALTENDER VENTILATOR.



RADIATOR

DANGER ACHTUNG 危険

NEVER OPEN WHEN HOT.
N'OUVREZ PAS QUAND CHAUD.
NICHT BEI HEISSEM MOTOR ÖFFNEN.

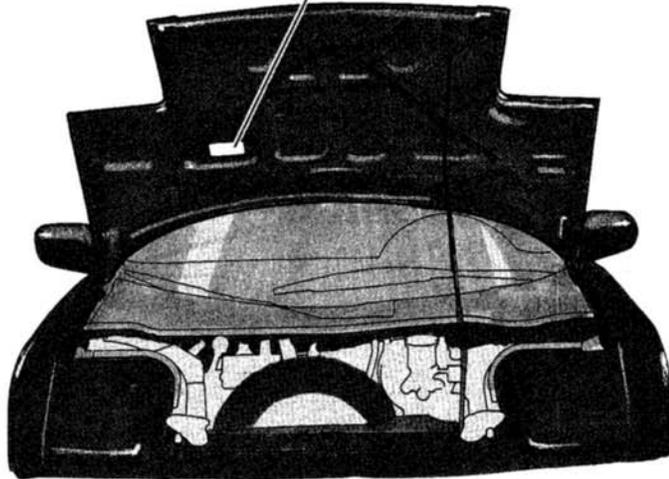
熱い時にあけるな。

HEADLIGHT MOTOR

CAUTION

- 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.
- IF IT IS NECESSARY TO OPERATE THE HEADLAMP MANUALLY, THE FUSES (15 AMPERE) FOR THE RETRACTOR MOTOR LOCATED (AT TWO PLACES) IN THE RELAY BOX MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE SUCH OPERATION.

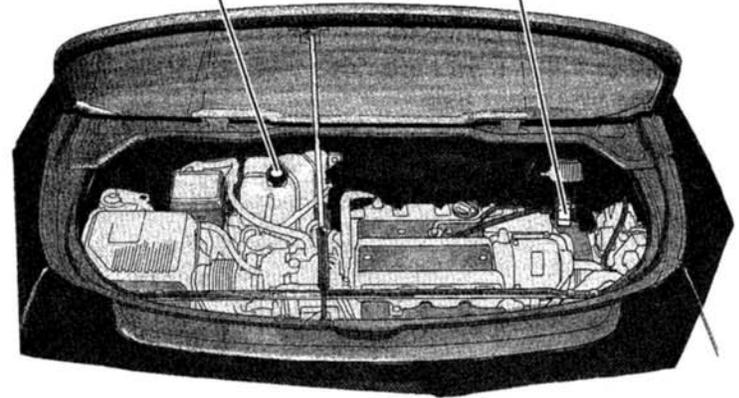
JUMP START



EXPANSION TANK CAP



ENGINE COMPARTMENT FAN



Seat Belts

The seat belts in your NSX are designed to help protect you in a collision. If you wear them properly, they can reduce your injuries and could even save your life. It is the law in many states, and all of Canada, that you wear your seat belt at all times.

⚠ WARNING

A crash, sudden stop, or emergency maneuver can cause you to be seriously injured or killed if you are not wearing your seat belt.

Be sure you and your passenger are both properly wearing your seat belts.

Your car has seat belts at both seating positions. These belts are one-piece lap/shoulder belts. Each seat belt should be worn only by one person.

The seat belts are designed for adults and larger children. Infants and small children should ride in a proper child restraint. See **Child Restraint Systems** (page 9) for more information.

Wearing the Seat Belts

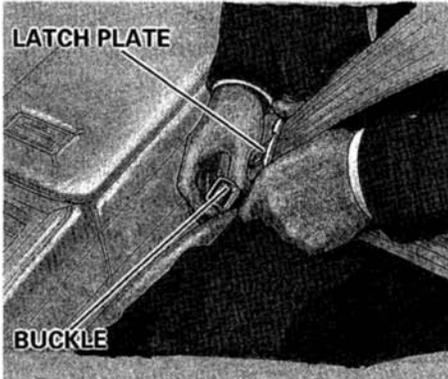
For your safety, position the seat belts as directed. An improperly-positioned seat belt can worsen your injuries in a crash.

To fasten the driver's or passenger's seat belt:

1. Make sure the doors are securely closed and locked.



2. Adjust the seat to a comfortable, but upright position. Sit straight up and well back in the seat. (See page 44)



3. Pull the latch plate across your hips and snap it into the nearest buckle. Tug on the latch plate to make sure it is securely locked.



4. Make sure the seat belt is not twisted. Pull up on the shoulder belt to remove any slack. Place the shoulder belt across your chest and over your collarbone, not under your arm.



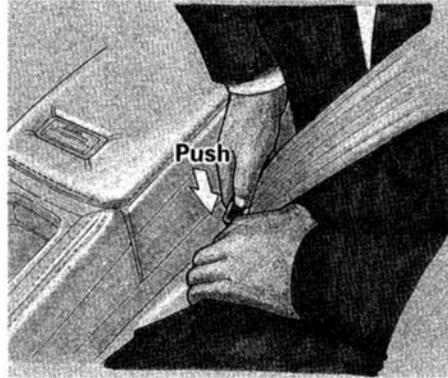
5. Position the lap portion across your hips, not your abdomen.

CONTINUED

Seat Belts

The automatic retractors allow you to move freely while keeping adequate tension on the seat belt. These retractors will lock up fully during a collision or sudden stop. They will not lock up if you just pull on the seat belt suddenly while sitting still.

Do not install comfort clips, shoulder belt pads, or any other commercially-available accessory on your car's seat belts. These accessories reduce the effectiveness of the seat belts, increasing your chance of injury.



To unlatch the seat belt, push the red PRESS button on the buckle. The seat belt will retract out of your way. If it doesn't, pull it out and check for twists or kinks in the belt.

Seat Belt Inspection, Replacement, Cleaning

Inspection

The condition of the seat belts is important to the safety of you and your passenger. You should inspect them regularly for frayed webbing, cuts, and wear. Check that the latch mechanisms work smoothly and cannot be pulled apart after they latch.

Replacement

Have the seat belt replaced if:

- The belt material is cut, punctured, frayed, burned, etc.
- The buckle does not latch or release smoothly and easily, or does not stay latched.
- The retractor does not work properly.

Seat Belts, Child Restraint Systems

- The seat belt was being worn during a collision. This strains the fabric and the belt could fail in another collision. When it is replaced, also have the belt anchors checked for any damage.

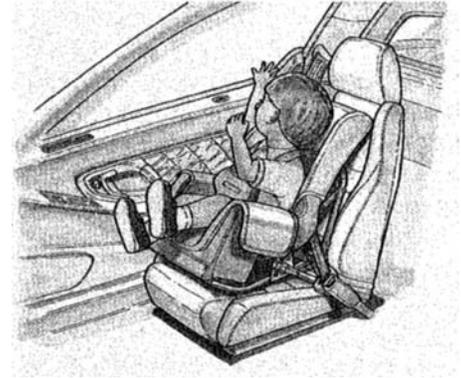
Cleaning

Keep the seat belts clean and dry. A damp belt is uncomfortable, does not perform as well, and will not go in and out of the retractor as easily.

To clean the seat belts:

1. Pull the seat belts out of their retractors so the areas you want to clean are fully exposed.
2. Use a soft brush to scrub them with a mixture of mild soap and warm water. Bleach, dye, and cleaning solvents can weaken the seat belt material.
3. Let them air-dry out of their retractors with the windows open.

Child Restraint Systems

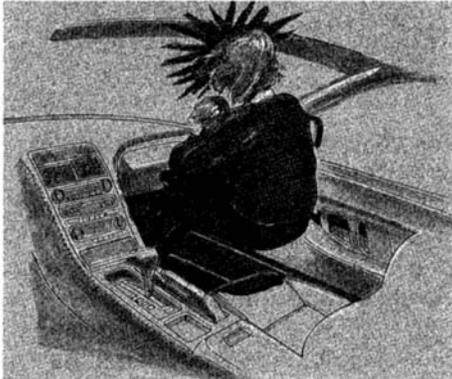


For safety, your child should always be restrained while riding in your car. This lessens the chance of injury in an accident, sudden maneuver or stop. Infants and young children are too small to be fully protected by your car's seat belts. They require special child restraint systems. All states have laws requiring that children ride in proper child restraints. Check the laws in your state.

CONTINUED

Child Restraint Systems

Never hold an infant in your arms while riding in the car. No matter how light the baby feels, or how strong you think you are, you may not be able to hang onto the infant in a crash. If you are not wearing your seat belt, you can crush the infant between your body and the car's interior. If you are wearing your seat belt, you may reduce YOUR injuries



Never hold an infant in your arms while riding in the car.

but the infant will fly out of your arms and strike the interior. A properly-installed child restraint system that meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) is the best protection available.

When you are shopping for a child restraint system, check the following:

- The child restraint system conforms to FMVSS-213. It should say so on the box and seat.
- The system fits your child. Each child restraint system has height and weight restrictions listed on the box or seat.
- The system fits your car's seat and seat belts. All approved child restraint systems are designed to be secured in your car by the lap belt or the lap belt portion of a lap/shoulder belt.

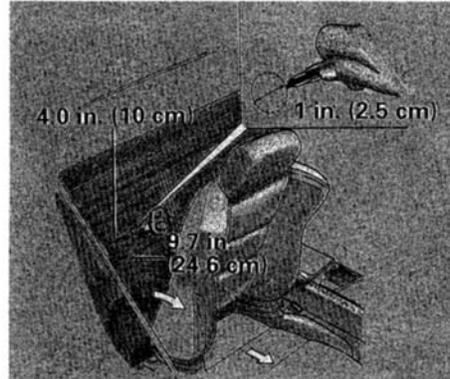
When you are using the child restraint, make sure it is secured properly. Follow the instructions that came with the child restraint system. A child restraint that is not properly secured does not protect your child and can be dangerous. If you are unsure of how to secure the system, take it to your Acura dealer. He can assist you.

When you are not carrying your child in the restraint, remove it from the car. If you leave it in, make sure the restraint is secured properly so it cannot fly around in the event of an accident.

Tether Attachment Point

Your NSX is equipped with an attachment point for a child restraint system which uses a top tether. The tether bracket and bolt are available at your Acura dealer. The tether attachment point is located on the panel behind the passenger's seat-back.

1. Adjust the passenger 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 1 inch 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 bracket and bolt and tighten to: 16 lb.ft (22N.m)

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

Pregnancy

You should always wear the lap/shoulder belt during pregnancy. Position the lap portion as low as possible on the hips, not across your abdomen.

Ask your doctor if you can drive, and about the best way to position the lap/shoulder belt, each time you go for a medical check-up.

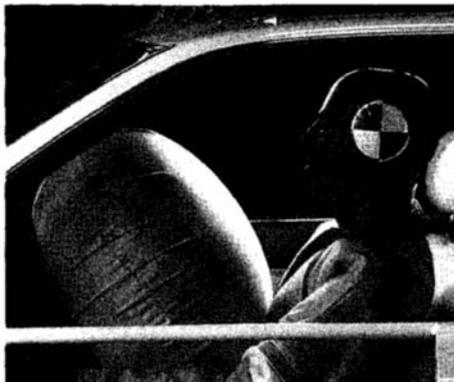
Supplemental Restraint System

Your NSX is equipped with a Supplemental Restraint System (SRS). This system consists of an airbag in the center of the steering wheel and a padded knee bolster on the bottom of the dashboard. It is most effective when used in conjunction with the seat belt.

WARNING

A crash, sudden stop, or emergency maneuver can cause you to be seriously injured or killed if you are not wearing your seat belt.

Be sure you and your passenger are both properly wearing your seat belts.



The SRS is designed to activate if the car is involved in a frontal collision at road speeds. The airbag cushions the driver's face and chest, while the knee bolster helps prevent the driver from sliding under the dashboard while helping to protect the driver's knees. The SRS will not protect the driver in a side impact, rear impact, or roll-over collision. The driver and passenger should wear their seat belts at all times for maximum protection.



When the airbag deploys in a collision, you may hear a fairly loud noise and see some smoke. This is from the propellant charge that deploys the airbag. It is normal and not harmful. The airbag is designed to inflate and deflate almost instantaneously, so it cushions the driver during impact but does not block the driver's vision.

Supplemental Restraint System



The SRS airbag is designed to be used only once. After it is activated, the airbag module must be replaced and the rest of the system checked. As a reminder, the SRS indicator light on the instrument panel will stay lit (see page 24). Only your Acura dealer should perform the replacement and checks.

The possibility that the SRS would deploy the airbag when there is no collision is very small. If this should ever happen, the bag will deflate immediately and not interfere with your ability to control the car.

The SRS sensors, control unit, air bag activator and wiring are monitored at all times when the ignition is ON. If a problem is detected, the SRS indicator will light. See page 24 for more information.

Modifying system components, or tampering with any SRS wiring, could make the system inoperative or cause the airbag to deploy accidentally.

The system has sensors located behind the dashboard and a control unit in the center console. All wiring is bright yellow.

The installation of "custom" steering wheels, additional trim materials, or badges in the middle of the steering wheel hub create a hazardous condition and are not recommended.

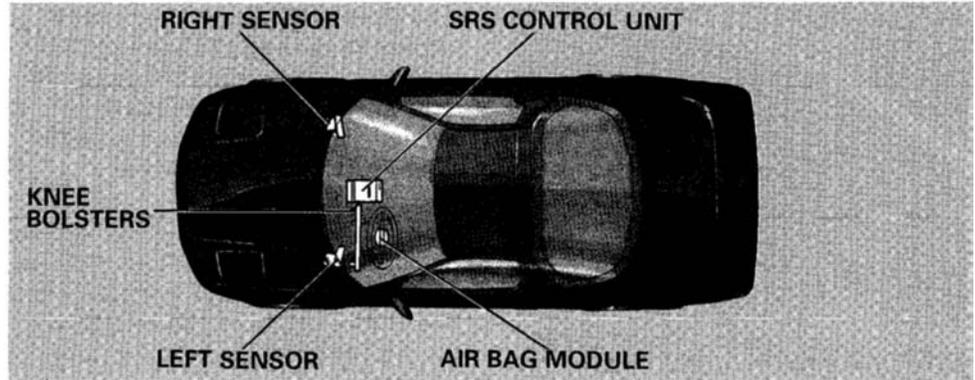
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Supplemental Restraint System

System Servicing

To ensure its reliability, the Supplemental Restraint System must be inspected by your dealer no more than ten years after the car's date of manufacture. This date can be found on the certification plate attached to the driver's door jamb.

The impact sensors for the SRS are located behind the dashboard and under the center console. Wiring and other components are located near the steering column and in the steering wheel.



None of the components in the SRS are user-serviceable. Doing mechanical or electrical work near SRS components, or disconnecting the SRS wiring, could cause the airbag to deploy accidentally or disable the system. If your car needs service or repair in any of those areas, have your dealer do the work.

Scrapping the airbag, or the entire car, without using the proper tools or following the procedures in the Service Manual can be hazardous. Scrapping the airbag should be done by your dealer.

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.

Every state has 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 decrease 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 a friend 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.

Carbon Monoxide Hazard

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 areas or actions 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 for even a short time in an unconfined area with the engine running, adjust the heating/cooling 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.

Reporting Safety Defects

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 American Honda Motor Company, Inc.

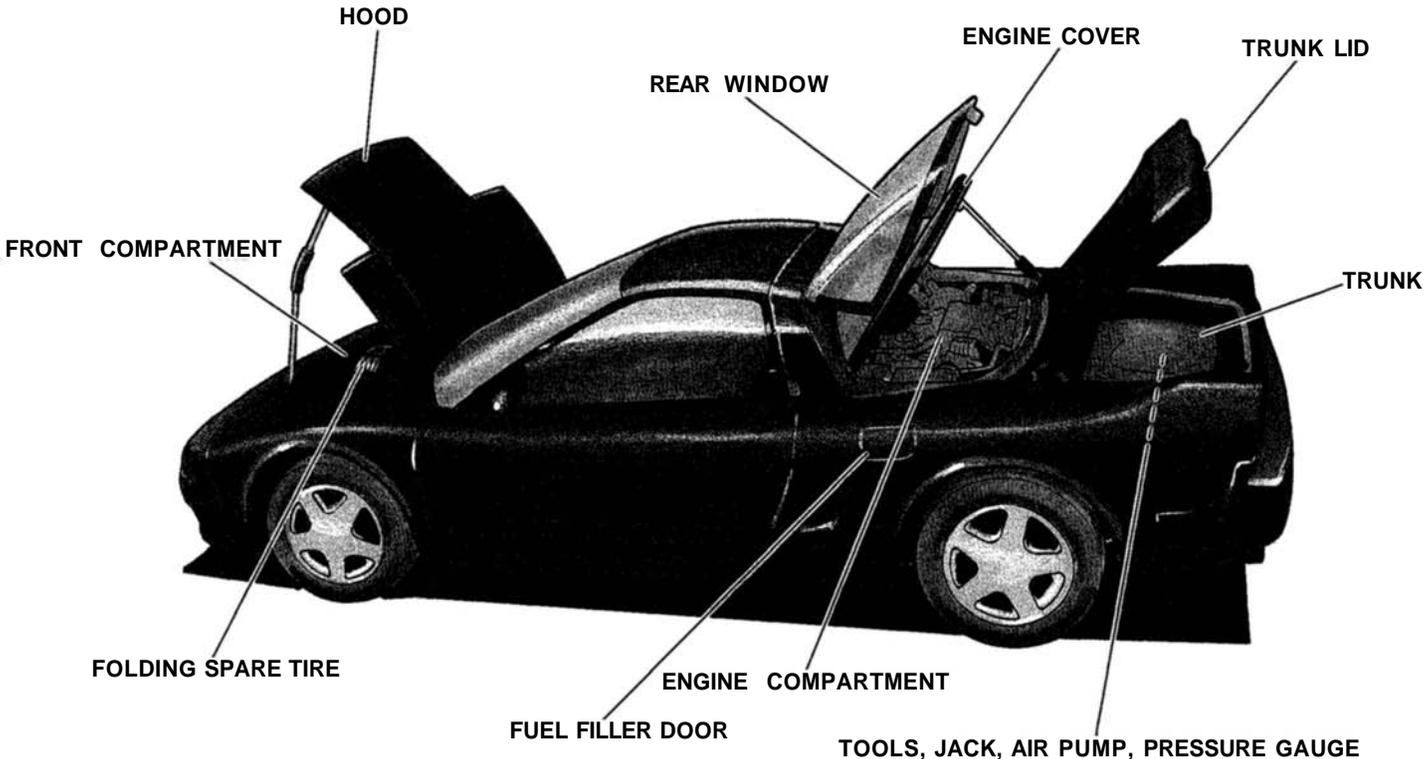
If NHTSA receives similar complaints, it may open an investigation, and if it finds that a safety defect exists in a group of vehicles, it may order a recall and remedy campaign. However, NHTSA cannot become involved in individual problems between you, your dealer, or American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

To contact NHTSA, you may either call the Auto Safety Hotline tollfree at (800) 424-9393 (or 366-0123 in the 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.

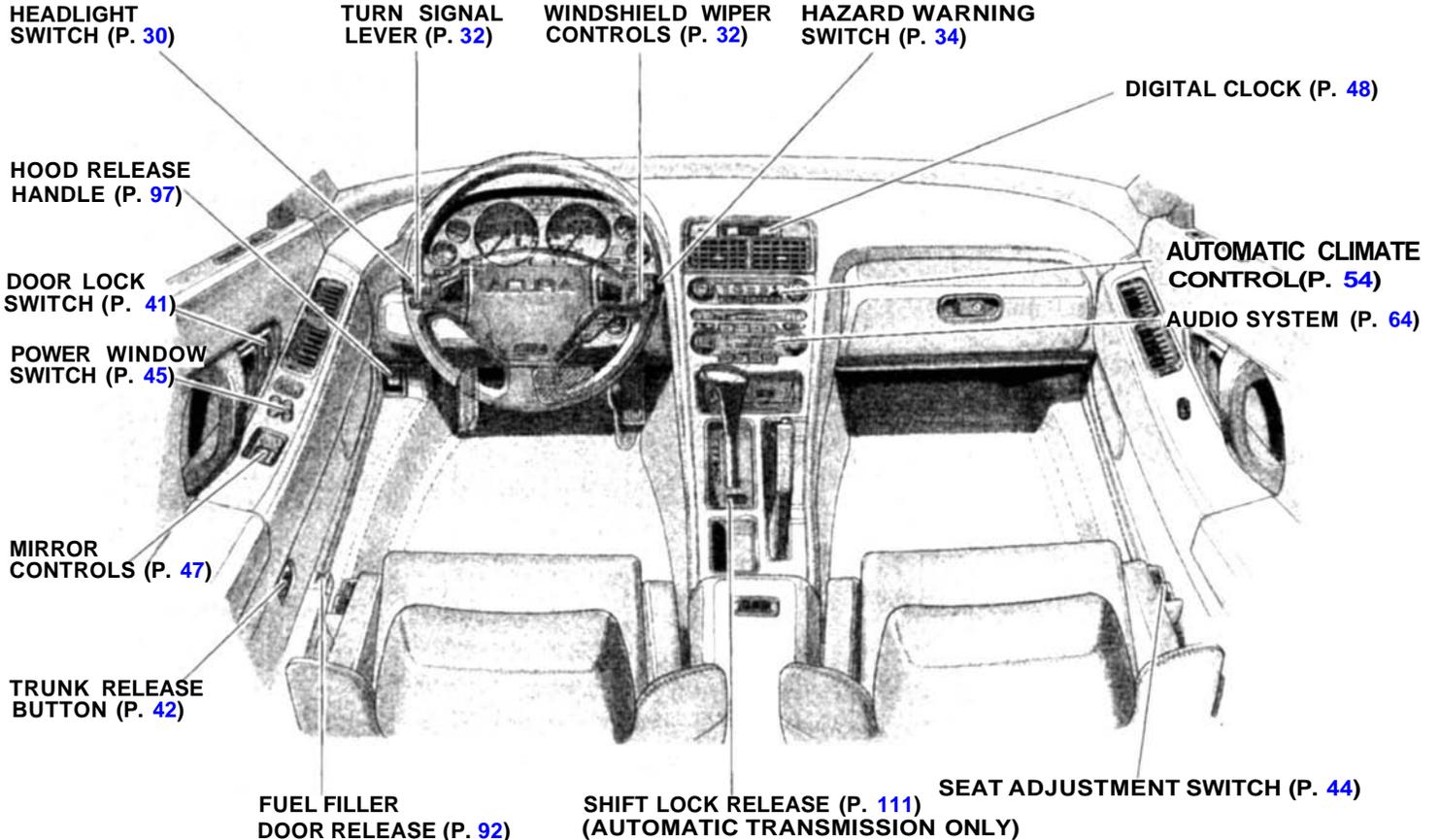
This section gives information about the controls and displays that contribute to the daily operation of your NSX. All the essential controls are within easy reach.

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Component Locations



Control Locations

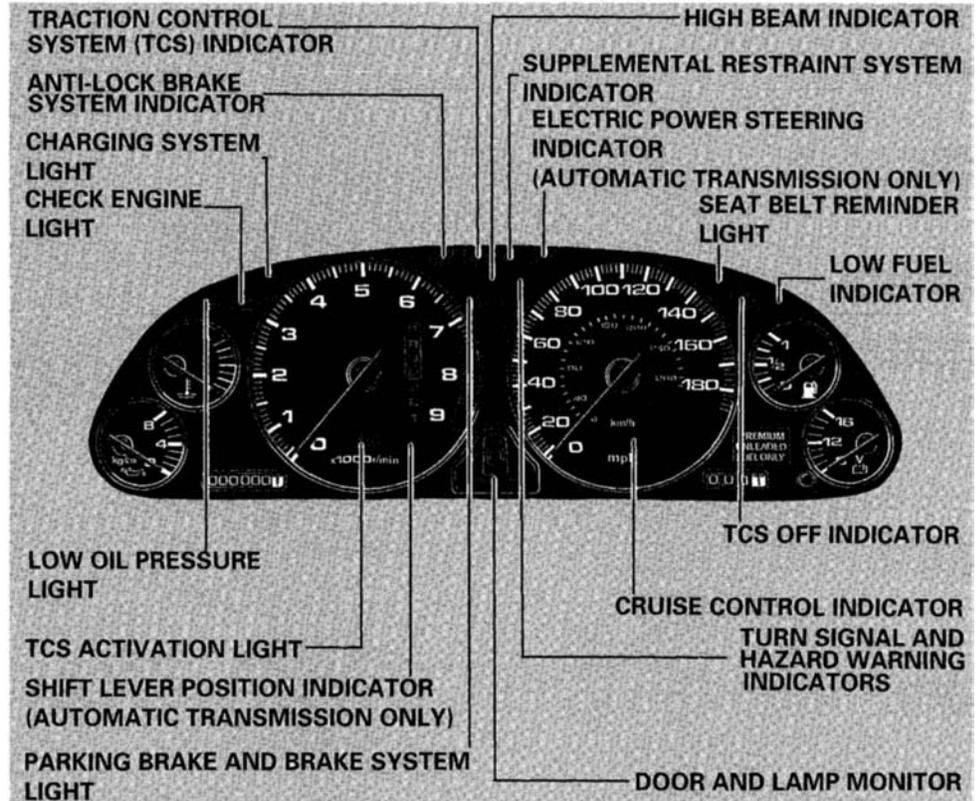


Indicator Lights

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

Lamp Check

Many of the indicator lights come on when you turn the ignition switch ON, allowing you to see that they are working. The instrument panel should look like the illustration. 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.





Seat Belt Reminder Light

This indicator flashes for several seconds when you turn the ignition ON. It flashes as a reminder to you and your passenger to fasten the seat belts. A beeper also sounds while this light is on if you have not fastened your seat belt. The beeper does not sound if your seat belt is fastened, but the reminder light comes on to remind you to check that your passenger is wearing the seat belt.



Low Oil Pressure Light

This indicator lights when the oil pressure in the engine drops low enough to cause damage. It should light when the ignition is ON and go out after the engine starts. If this light comes on at any other time, there is a possibility of serious engine damage. Safely pull to the side of the road and shut off the engine as soon as you can.

Turn to page [194](#) for instructions and precautions on checking the engine.



Charging System Light

This light indicates the battery is not being charged. It should come on when the ignition is ON, and go out after the engine starts. If this light comes on while driving, the battery is not being charged. Turn to page [195](#) for information about what to do.



Parking Brake and Brake System Light

This light has two functions:

1. It lights as a reminder that you have set the parking brake. Driving with the parking brake set can damage the brakes and tires, and cause the Anti-lock braking system to turn off (see page [113](#))
2. It can indicate the brake fluid level is low if it remains lit after you release the parking brake or comes on while driving. This is normally due to worn brake pads. Have your dealer check the braking system for worn pads or fluid leaks.

CONTINUED

Indicator Lights

SRS

Supplemental Restraint System Indicator

The SRS light normally comes on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition ON. If it doesn't, or it stays on after the engine starts, something is wrong with the Supplemental Restraint System. It may also flash on and off to indicate a problem.

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

**ANTI
LOCK**

Anti-lock Brake System Indicator

This light normally comes on when you turn the ignition ON and goes off after the engine starts. If it comes on at any other time, there is a problem in the Anti-lock brake system. If this happens, stop the car in a safe place and turn off the engine. Reset the system by restarting the engine.



Check Engine light

Watch the Anti-lock 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, your car still has normal braking ability but no anti-lock.

As a test, this light comes on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch ON. If it comes on at any other time, one of the engine's emission control systems may have a problem. Stop the car in a safe place and turn off the engine. Restart the engine and watch the Check Engine light. If it stays on, or comes on again while driving, have the car checked by your dealer as soon as possible. Driving with this light on may not be harmful to your car, but the emissions levels may be higher than normal.

Door and Lamp Monitor



The appropriate light comes on in this display if the rear window, trunk, 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 at ON.

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.

The icon is a dark grey rounded rectangle with the letters "EPS" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Electric Power Steering (EPS) Indicator

(Automatic Transmission only)

This light normally comes on when you turn the ignition ON 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 power steering is turned off, making the car harder to steer.

The icon is a dark grey rounded rectangle with the letters "TCS" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Traction Control System (TCS) Indicator

This light indicates that there is a problem with the Traction Control system. It also normally lights for a few seconds when you turn the ignition ON. For more information on the TCS, see page [114](#).

The icon is a dark grey trapezoidal shape with the letters "TCS" above "OFF" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

TCS Off Indicator

This indicator is a reminder that you have turned off the Traction Control System. As a check, it also lights for a few seconds when you turn the ignition ON. See page [114](#) for more information on the TCS.

The icon is a dark grey rounded rectangle with the letters "TCS" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

TCS Activation Light

This light flashes on when the Traction Control System is regulating the engine. It will normally light for a few seconds when you turn the ignition ON. See page [114](#) for more information on the TCS.

CONTINUED

Indicator Lights



Turn Signal and Hazard Warning Indicators

The left or right turn signal lights blink when you signal a lane change or turn (see page 32). If the light does not blink or blinks rapidly, it usually means one of the turn signal bulbs is burned out (see page 160). Replace it as soon as possible, since other drivers cannot see that you are signaling.

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 30 for information on the headlight controls.



Cruise Control Indicator

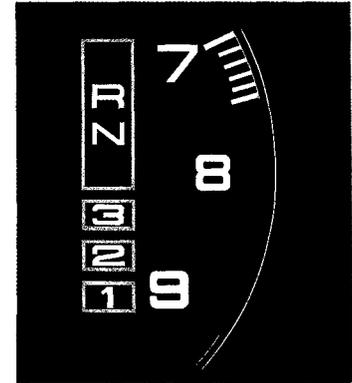
This lights when you set the cruise control. See page 36 for information on operating the cruise control.



Low fuel Indicator

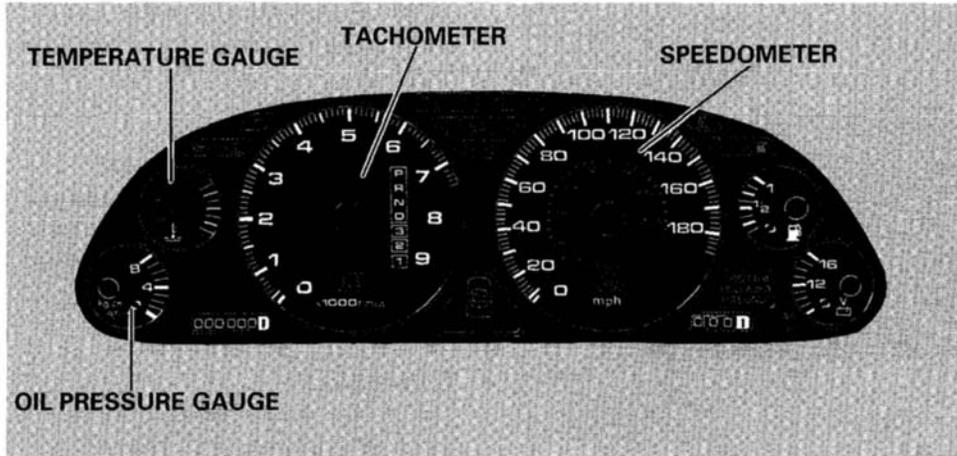
This light comes on as a reminder that you must refuel soon.

Shift Lever Position Indicator (Automatic Transmission only)



An indicator in the tachometer shows which shift position you are in.

If the "D" indicator light 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.



Speedometer

This shows your speed in miles per hour. The smaller inner numbers are the speed in kilometers per hour.

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

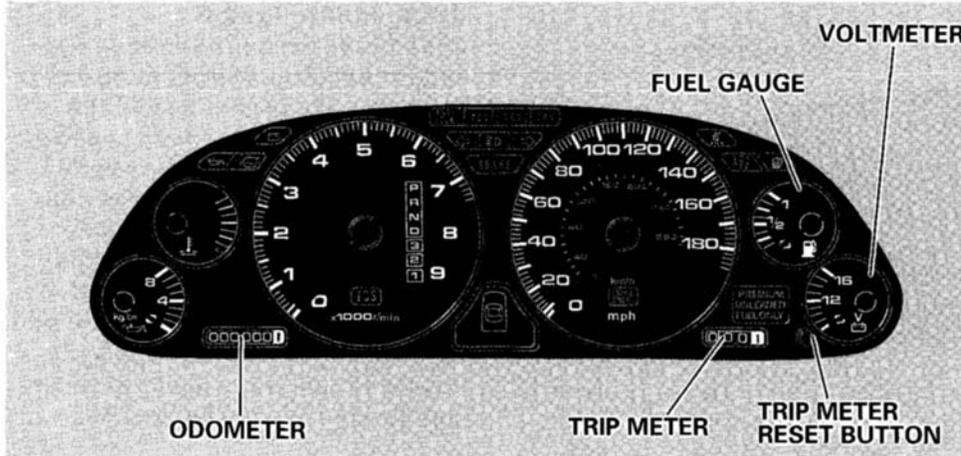
This shows the engine's oil pressure in kilograms per square centimeter. This pressure varies with engine speed and temperature. If the oil pressure falls low enough to cause engine damage, the Low Oil Pressure Light comes on (see page 23).

Temperature Gauge

This shows the temperature of the engine's coolant. During normal operation, the pointer should rise from the bottom blue mark to about the middle white mark. In severe driving conditions, such as very hot weather or a long period of uphill driving, the pointer may rise to the upper white mark. If it reaches the red (Hot) mark, pull safely to the side of the road. Turn to page 131 for instructions and precautions on checking the engine's cooling system.

CONTINUED

Gauges



Voltmeter

This meter shows you the battery voltage when the ignition is ON. 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 if such a problem occurs.

Fuel Gauge

The fuel gauge shows how much gasoline 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 back ON.

Odometer

The odometer shows the total number of miles your car has been driven. It is illegal under federal law to alter the odometer with the intent to change the number of miles indicated.

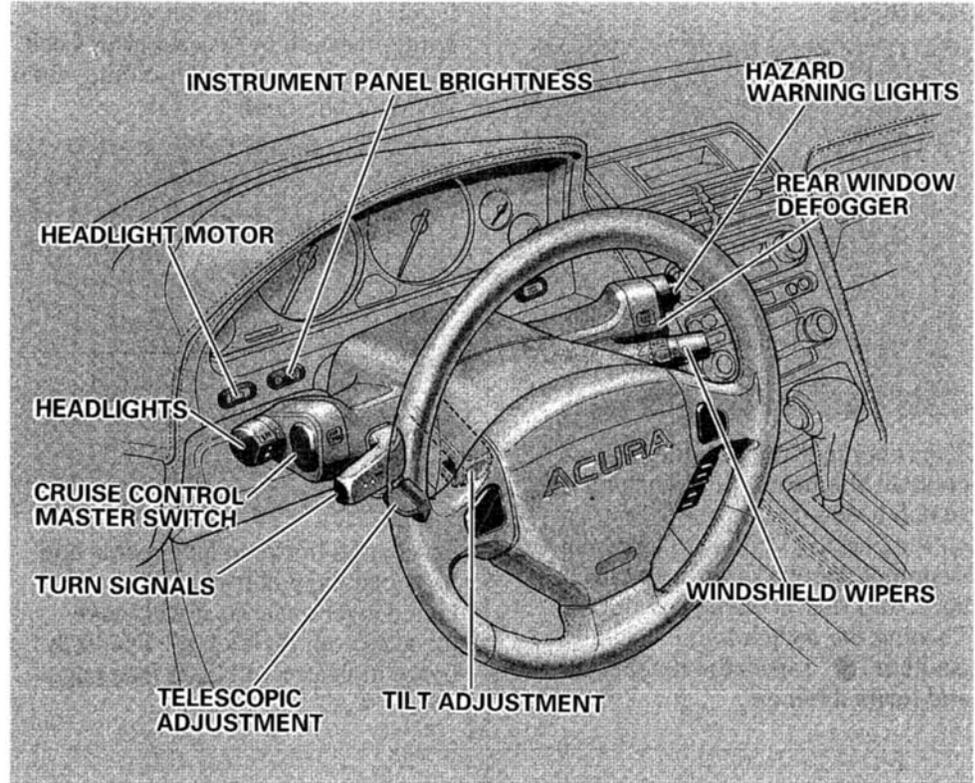
Trip Meter

This meter shows the number of miles driven since you last reset it. To reset it, push the trip meter reset button.

Steering Column Controls

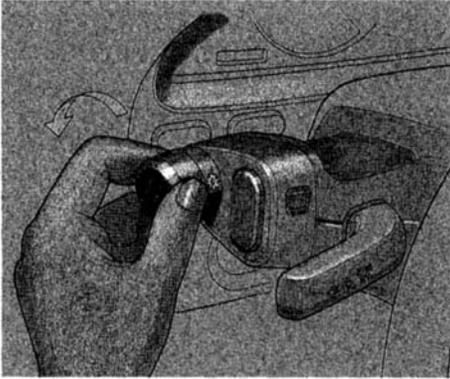
The two pods on the steering column contain controls for driving features you use most often. The left pod has controls for the turn signals, headlights, high beams, and the cruise control master switch. The right pod has controls for the windshield wipers, rear window defogger, and hazard lights. Underneath 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.



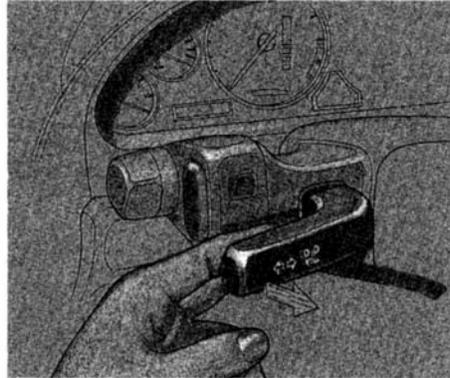
Steering Column Controls

Headlights



The rotating switch on the left pod controls the headlights. Turning this switch to the first position “●” turns on the parking lights, tail lights, instrument panel lights, side-marker light, 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 or Lock, you will hear a reminder chime when you open the door.



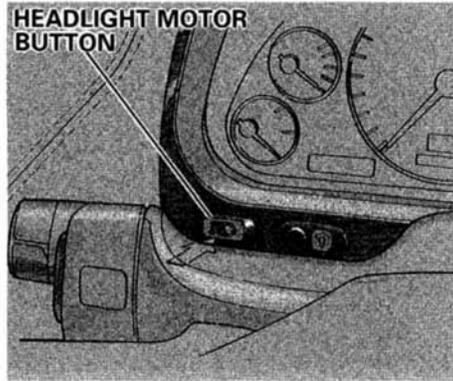
To change between low beams and high beams, pull back on the turn signal lever as far as it will move towards you, then let go. The high beam indicator will light (see page [26](#)).

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, no matter what position the headlight switch is in.

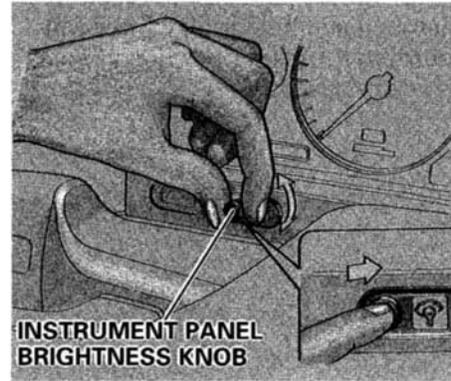
Steering Column Controls

Headlight Motor



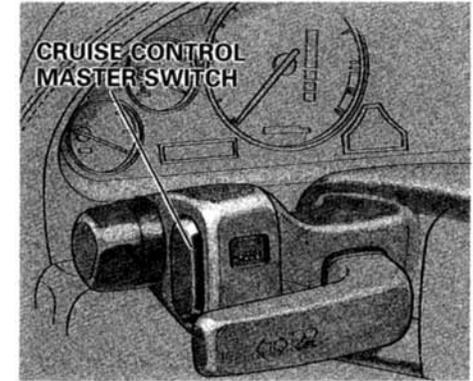
To raise and lower the headlight doors without turning them on, push the dashboard button behind the left pod.

Instrument Panel Brightness



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.

Cruise Control Master Switch

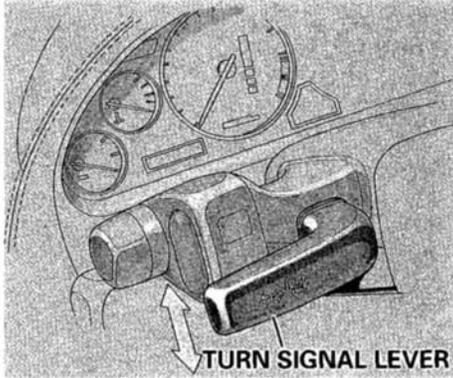


The switch on the left pod is the cruise control master switch. For instruction on using the cruise control (see page [36](#)).

CONTINUED

Steering Column Controls

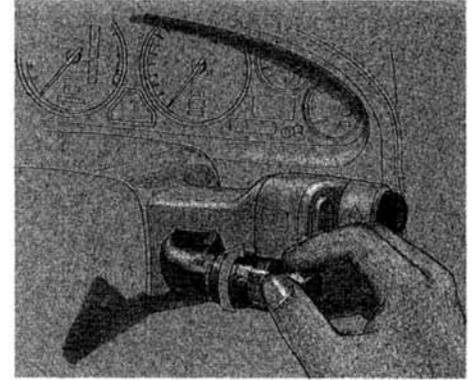
Turn Signals



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.

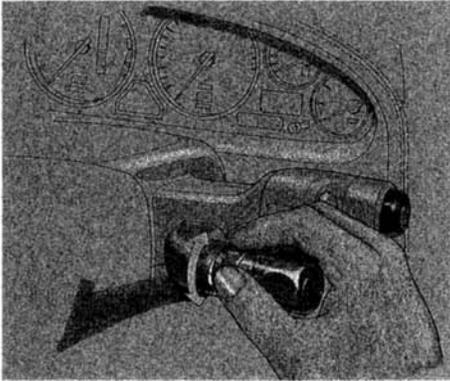
To signal a lane change, push lightly on the turn signal lever in the proper direction and hold it. The lever will return to the center position as soon as you release it.

Windshield Wipers

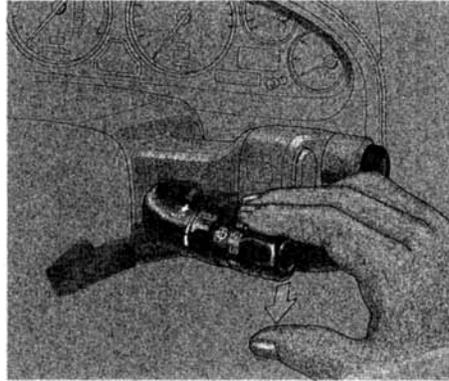


The lever on the right pod controls the windshield wipers and washers. The rotary switch at the end of the lever has three positions:
INT — intermittent
LO — low speed
HI — high speed

Steering Column Controls

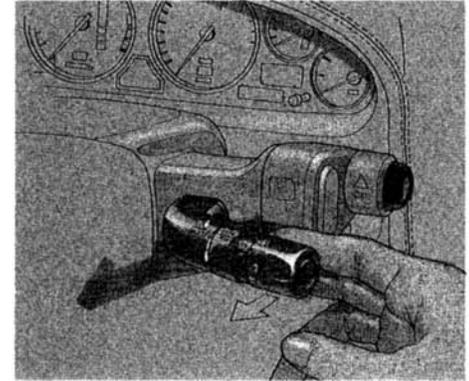


In intermittent, the wipers operate every few seconds. You can adjust this delay by turning the INT TIME ring on the lever. This allows you to vary how often the windshield wipers sweep when driving in light rain or snow. In low speed and high speed, the wipers run continuously.



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.

Windshield Washers

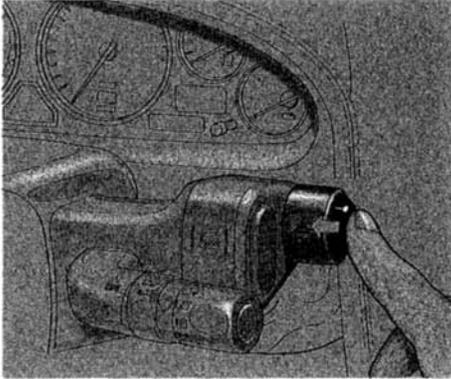


To clean the windshield, pull back on the wiper control. The washers spray until you release the lever. The wipers run at low speed while you're pulling the lever, then complete one more sweep of the windshield after you release it.

CONTINUED

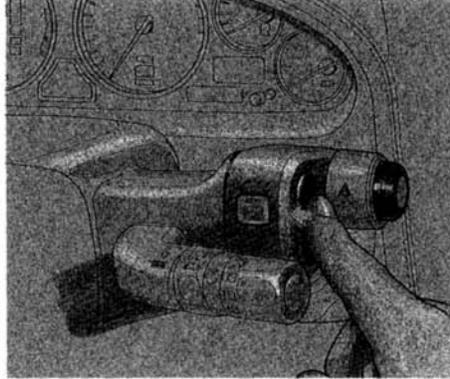
Steering Column Controls

Hazard Warning

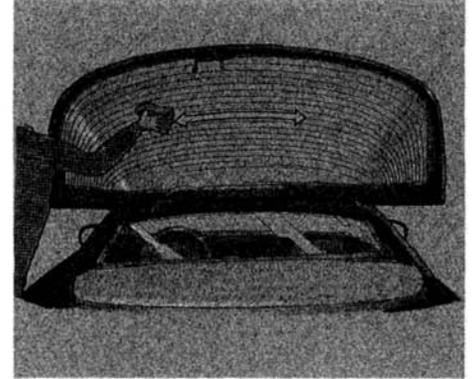


Push the large red button on the right pod to turn on the hazard warning lights (four-way flashers). This causes all four outside turn signals and both indicators in the instrument panel to flash. Use the hazard warning lights if you need to park in a dangerous area near heavy traffic, or if your car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

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.



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.

Steering Wheel Adjustments

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

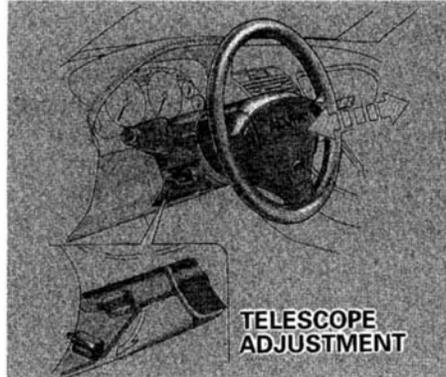
After you have adjusted the steering wheel, make sure you have securely locked it in place by moving it in and out and up and down.

WARNING

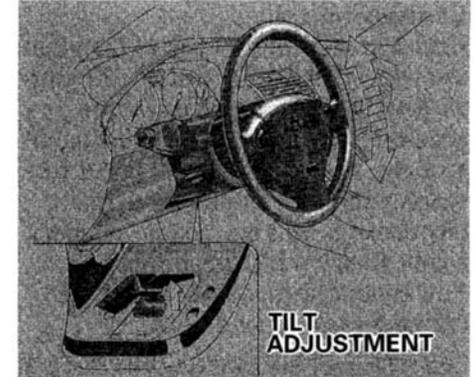
Adjusting the steering wheel position while driving may cause you to lose control of the car and be seriously injured in a crash.

Adjust the steering wheel only when the car is stopped.

1. Adjust the seat so you are a comfortable distance from the pedals.



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 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 30 mph (48 km/hr) without keeping your foot on the accelerator pedal. It is 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

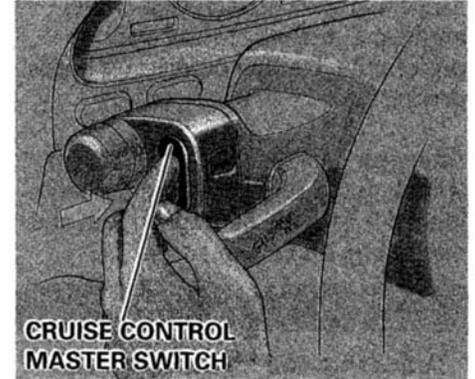
Improper use of the cruise control can lead to a crash.

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

NOTICE

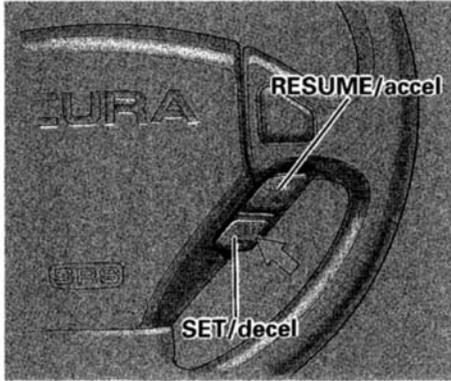
The cruise control, as it operates, moves the accelerator pedal. You can damage your car's accelerator mechanism by resting your foot under the pedal and blocking the movement.

Using the Cruise Control



1. Push in the Cruise Control Master Switch on the left pod. The indicator on the front of the pod will light.
2. Accelerate to the desired cruising speed above 30 mph (48 km/hr).

Steering Wheel Controls



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

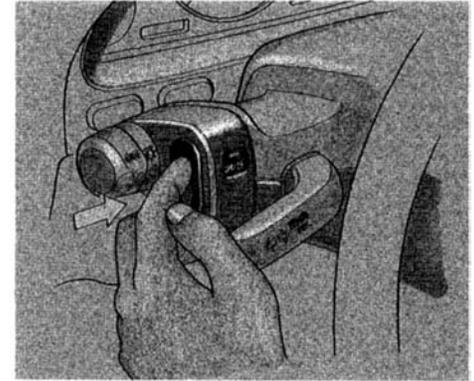
Even with the cruise control turned on, you can still use the accelerator pedal to speed up for passing. After completing the pass, take your foot off the accelerator pedal. The car will return to the set cruising speed. Resting your foot on the brake or clutch pedal will cause the cruise control to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

Turning off the Cruise Control

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

- Tap the brake or, if manual transmission, clutch pedal.
- Press the Cruise Control Master Switch.

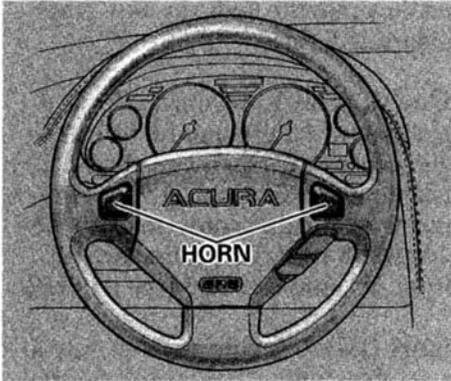
When you tap the brake or clutch pedal, the CRUISE CONTROL light on the instrument panel will go out and the car will begin to slow down. You can use the accelerator pedal in the normal way. The system retains the previously-set cruising speed. To return to that speed, accelerate to above 30 mph (48 km/hr) 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. This erases the previous cruising speed from memory. To use the system again, you must set the system up as explained in ***Using the Cruise Control.***

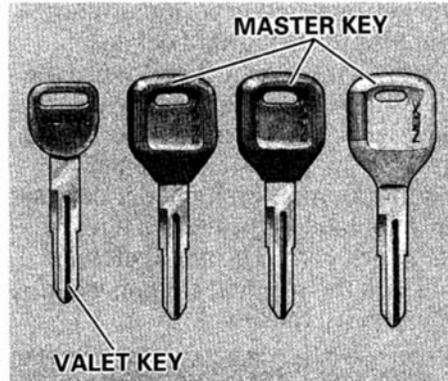
Steering Wheel Controls, Keys and Locks

Horn



Press either of the buttons on the steering wheel spokes to sound the horn.

Keys



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

- Ignition
- Doors
- Trunk
- Glove box

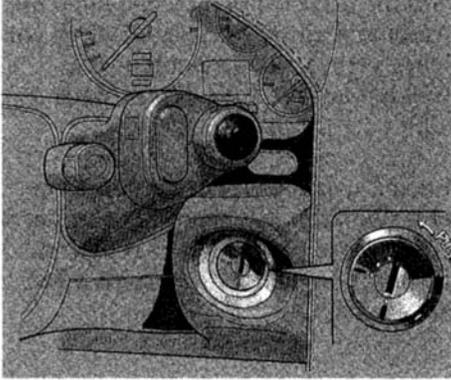
The valet key only works the ignition and the door locks. You can keep the trunk and glove box locked when you leave your car and valet key at a parking facility. (See Trunk, page [42](#).)

Each key has a number stamped in one side. You will need this number if you have to get a lost key replaced. Record this number and keep it in a safe place.

CONTINUED

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), and 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.

⚠ WARNING

Removing the key from the ignition switch while driving locks the steering. This can cause you to lose control.

Remove the key from the ignition switch only when parked.

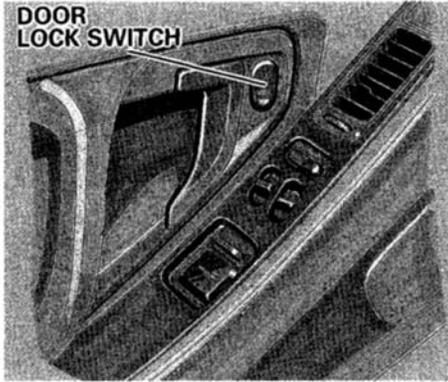
Accessory (I)— In this position, you can operate the audio system and cigarette lighter.

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 22).

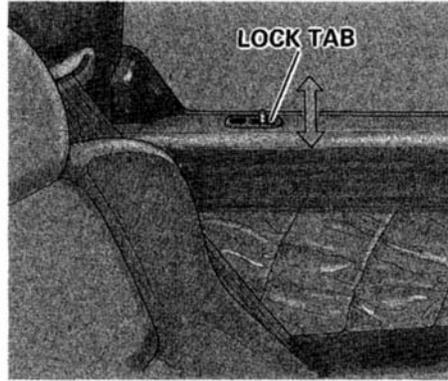
Start (III)— Use this position only to start the engine. The switch returns to ON when you let go of the key.

You will hear a reminder beeper if you open the door with the key in the Lock or Accessory position. Remove the key to turn it off.

Power Door Locks



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



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. The lock tab on the passenger's door only locks that door. To get out of the car, pull each lock tab up or use the door lock switch before you open either door.

The doors can be locked and unlocked from the outside with the key. Both doors lock when you use the key to lock the driver's door.

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

CONTINUED

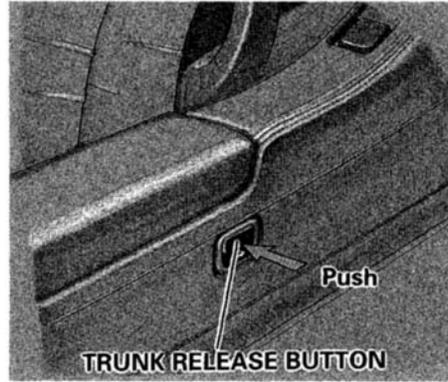
Keys and Locks

Lockout Prevention

Lockout Prevention keeps you from locking the driver's door with the key in the ignition. If you try to lock the driver's door by pushing down the lock tab, the tab immediately pops back up. As further protection, the door lock switch will not lock the door when the driver's door is open and the key is in the ignition.

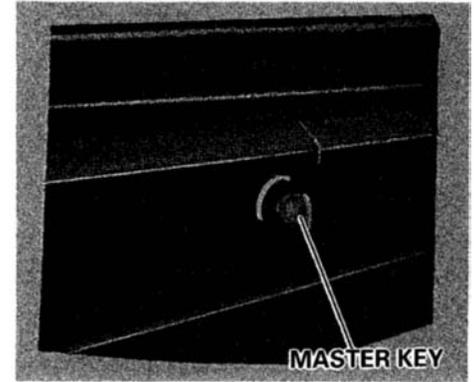
You may accidentally override the Lockout Prevention feature. If you push the lock tab down again after it has popped up, then continue to hold the door handle out for several seconds after closing the driver's door, the locks cycle several times. This may lock both doors.

Trunk



You can open the trunk in two ways:

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



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

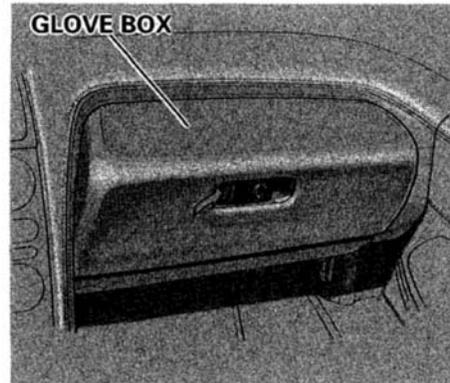
See page [101](#) for loading cargo and weight limit information. Keep the trunk lid closed at all times while driving to avoid damaging it.



To protect items in the trunk when someone is using your car:

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



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

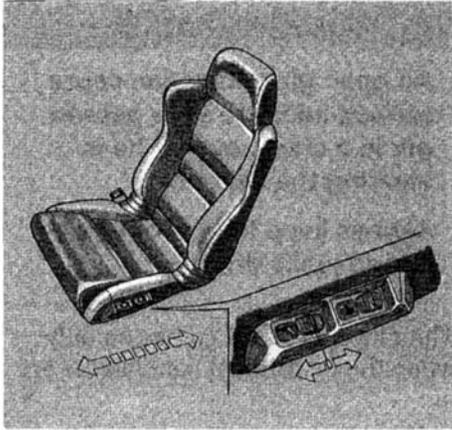
⚠ WARNING

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

Always keep the glove box closed while driving.

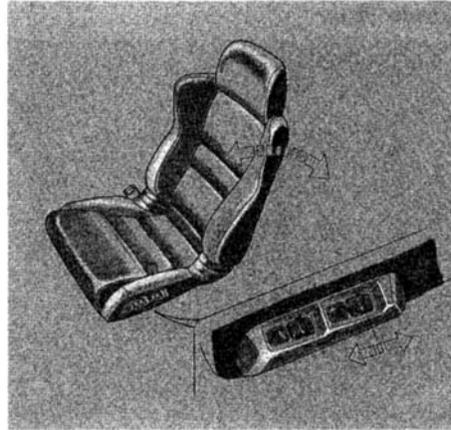
The glove box light comes on only when the instrument panel lights are on.

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 seats with the ignition switch in any position. Adjust the seat position before you start driving.

⚠ WARNING

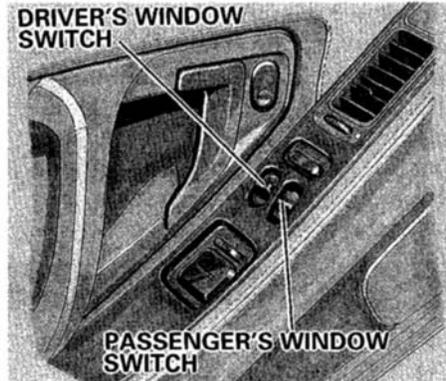
Reclining the seat-back can decrease the protection you get from your seat belt in a crash.

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.

Power Windows

Your car's windows are electrically-powered. They operate when the ignition switch is ON, and for a short period of time after you turn the ignition OFF.



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.

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.

CONTINUED

Power Windows, Mirrors

MAIN— This 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.

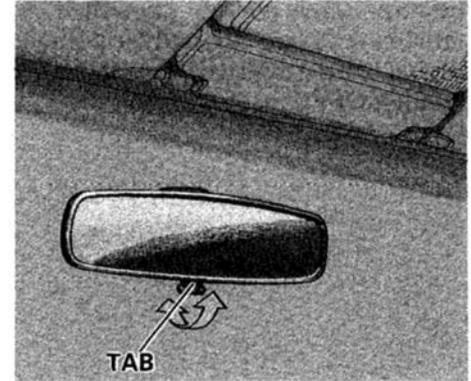
The power window system has a key-off delay function. The windows will still operate for up to ten minutes after you turn off the ignition. Opening either door cancels the delay function. You must turn the ignition ON again before you can raise or lower the windows.

WARNING

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

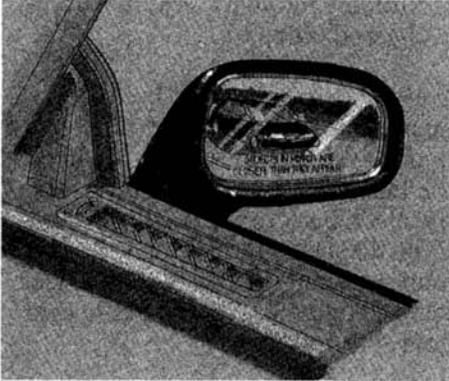
Make sure your child is away from the window before closing it.

Mirrors



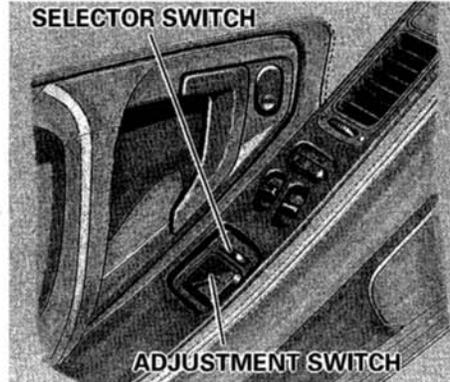
Keep the inside and outside mirrors clean and adjusted for best visibility. Be sure to adjust the mirrors before you start driving.

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.



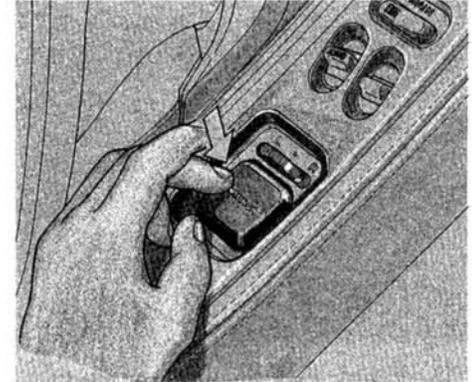
The outside mirror on the passenger's side has curved glass. Objects look farther away than they are. Use this mirror to get a "wide view." Don't use it to judge the distance of things behind you.

Adjusting the Power Mirrors



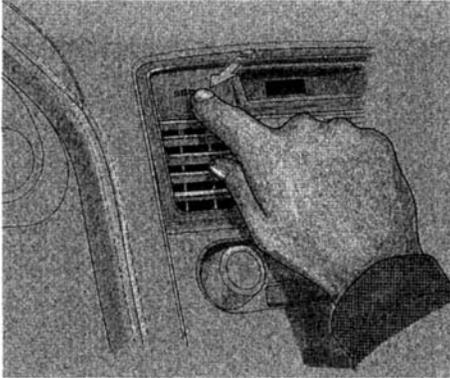
Adjust the outside mirrors with the adjustment switch on the driver's door armrest:

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

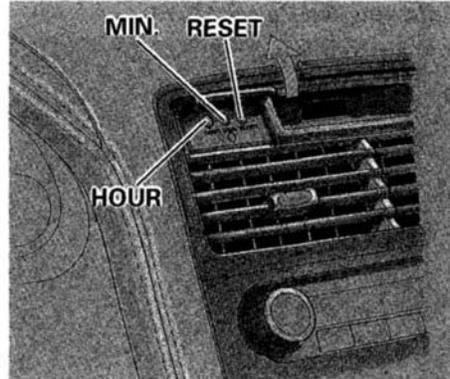


3. Push the appropriate edge of the adjustment switch to move the mirror right or left, up or down.
4. When you finish, move the selector switch to the center (off) position. This turns off the adjustment switch so you can't move a mirror out of position by accidentally bumping the switch.

Digital Clock



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



To set the clock:

1. Turn the ignition switch ON 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.

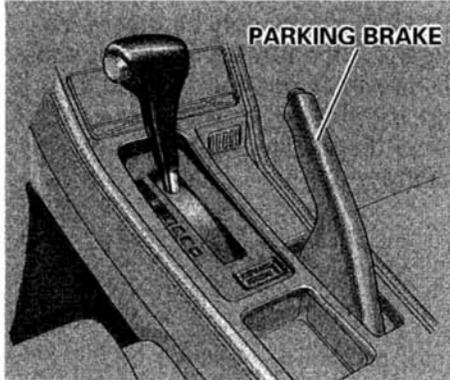
4. Press and hold the MIN button until the numbers advance to the desired time.

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 RESET sets the clock back to the previous hour. If the displayed time is after the half hour, pressing RESET sets the clock forward to the beginning of the next hour. For example:

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

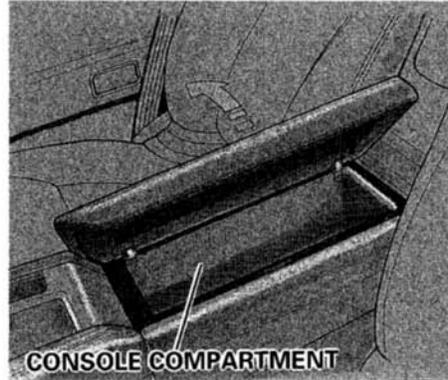
Parking Brake, Console Compartment, Vanity Mirror

Parking Brake



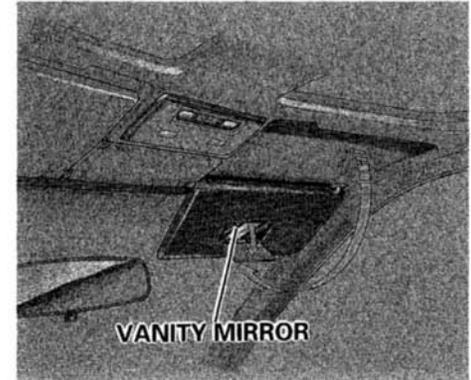
To apply the parking brake, pull the lever up fully. To release it, pull up slightly, push the button, and lower the lever. The parking brake light on the instrument panel should go out when the parking brake is fully released (see page 23). If you try to drive the car without releasing the parking brake, the Anti-lock brake system cannot work properly, and the rear brakes can be damaged.

Console Compartment



To open the console compartment, lift the left edge.

Vanity Mirror



Pull down the passenger side sunvisor to use the vanity mirror.

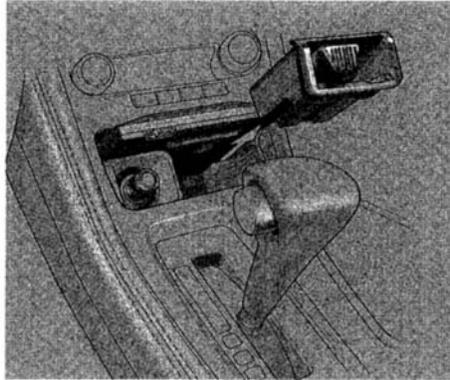
Cigarette Lighter, Ashtray

Cigarette Lighter



The ignition switch must be in Accessory or ON 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



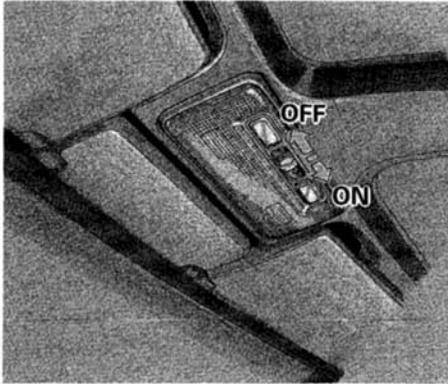
Open the ashtray by lifting the lid up. To close the ashtray, push the lid down. To remove it for emptying, lift the lid up to the open position, and push it up further. The ashtray will pop out slightly so you can grasp it and pull it all the way out. After emptying, push it all the way back in.

NOTICE

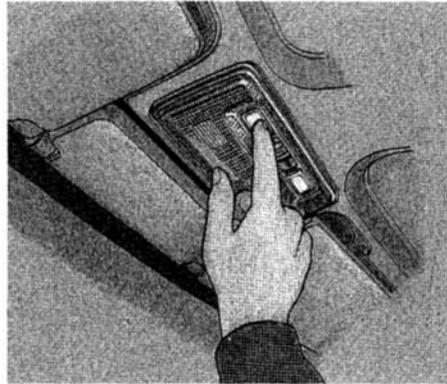
Use the ashtray only for cigarettes, cigars, and other smoking materials. To prevent a possible fire and damage to your car, don't put paper or other things that can burn in the ashtray.

Interior Lights, Courtesy Lights

Interior Lights

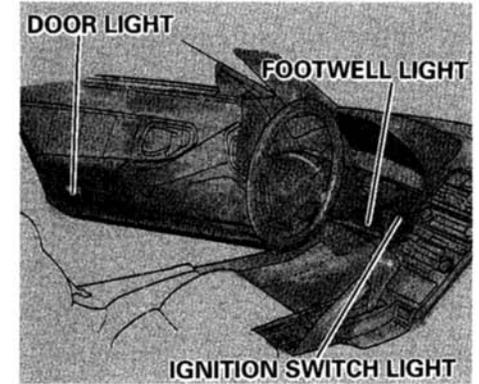


The interior light, on the ceiling between the sun visors, has a three-position switch. With the switch in the OFF position (far left), the light will not come on. In the center position, the interior light comes on when you open either door. In the ON position (far right), the interior light is on all the time.



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.

Courtesy Lights



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

Your car has several features to make driving more comfortable.

The Automatic Climate Control system in your NSX 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 NSX.

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Automatic Climate Control

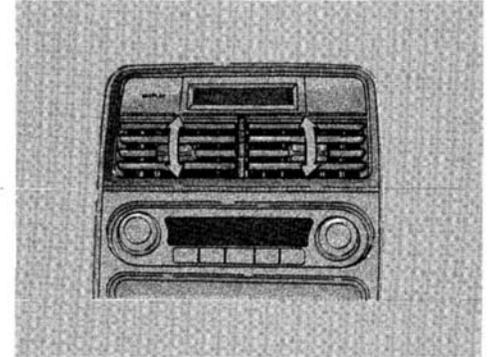
The automatic climate control system in your NSX picks the proper combination of air conditioning, heating, and ventilation to maintain the interior temperature you select. The system also adjusts the fan speed and air flow direction.

The direction of air flow from the vents in the center of the dashboard 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 by the dial next to each vent.

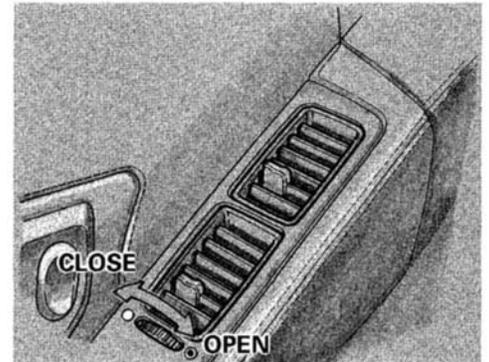
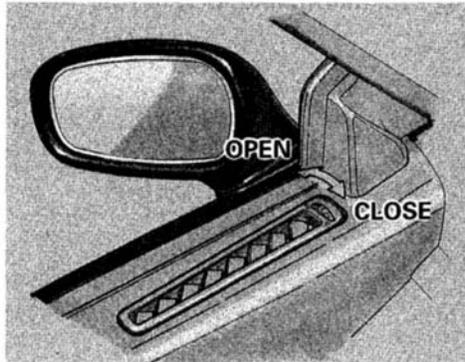
The climate control system draws air through the exterior vents at the bottom of the windshield. Keep these vents clear of leaves and other debris.

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

CENTER VENTS



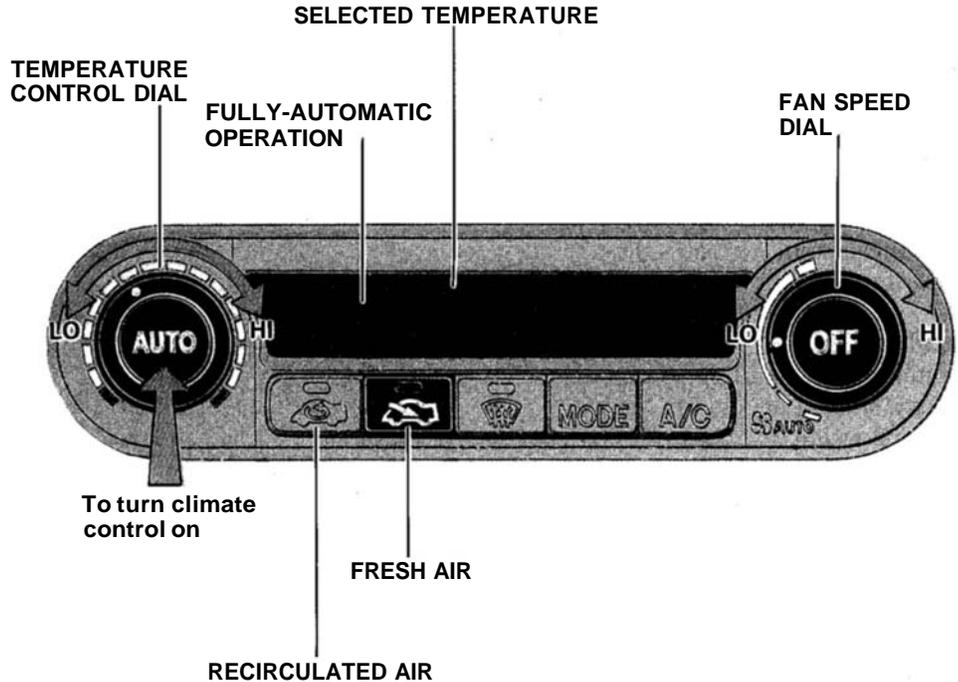
DOOR VENTS



Automatic Climate Control

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.



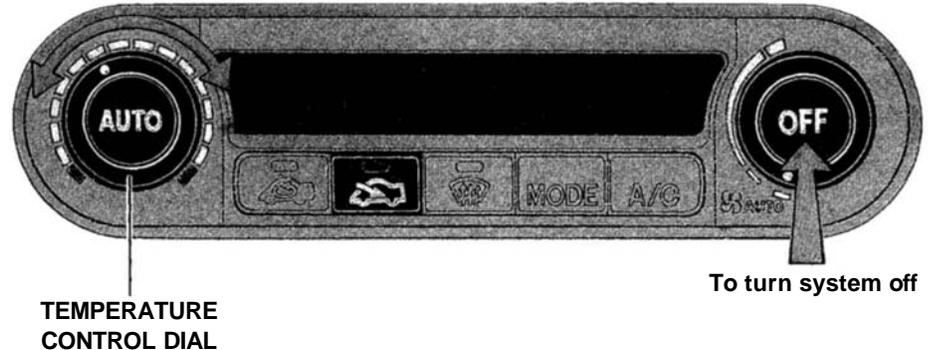
CONTINUED

Automatic Climate Control

To heat or cool the interior faster, rotate the temperature control dial to its lower limit (60°F) or upper limit (90°F). The system then runs continuously at maximum cooling or heating. When the dial is set anywhere else within its range (61°F to 89°F), the system regulates the interior temperature to that 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.



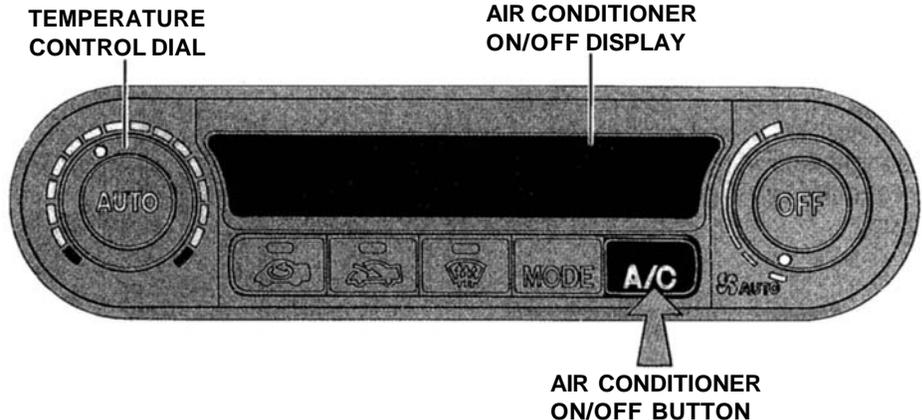
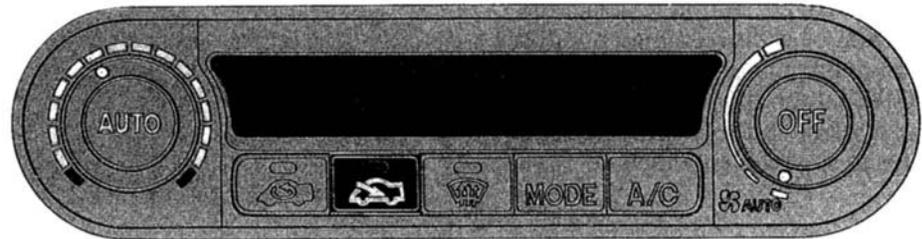
Automatic Climate Control

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 conditioner ON and OFF Button

Pressing the A/C button turns the air conditioner 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.



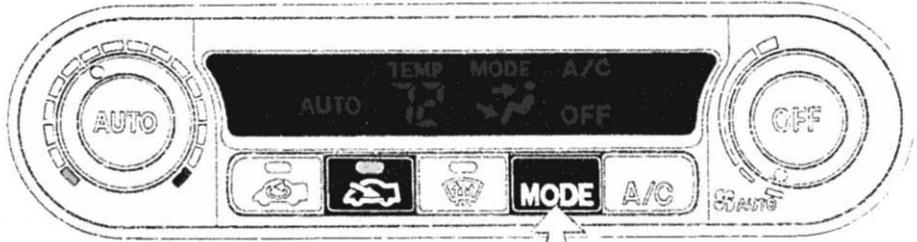
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Automatic Climate Control

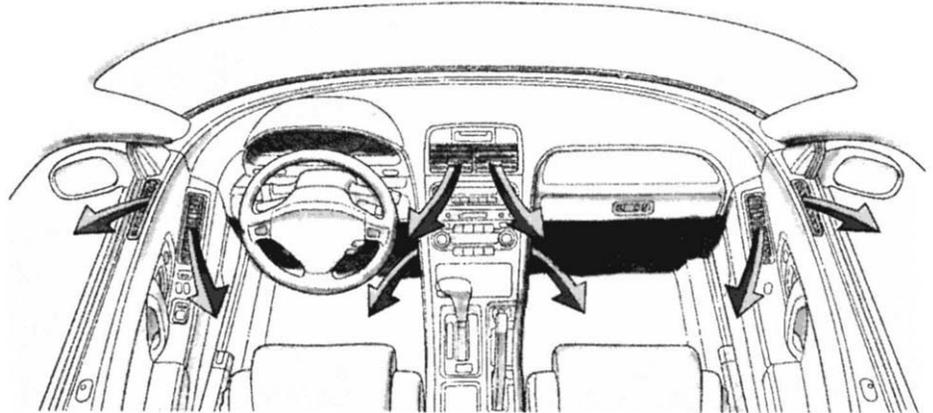
Mode Button

Use the MODE button to select the direction of air flow coming out of the system: Each time you press the MODE button the display shows the mode selected. Press the button four times to see all the modes.

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



To manually select
air flow direction

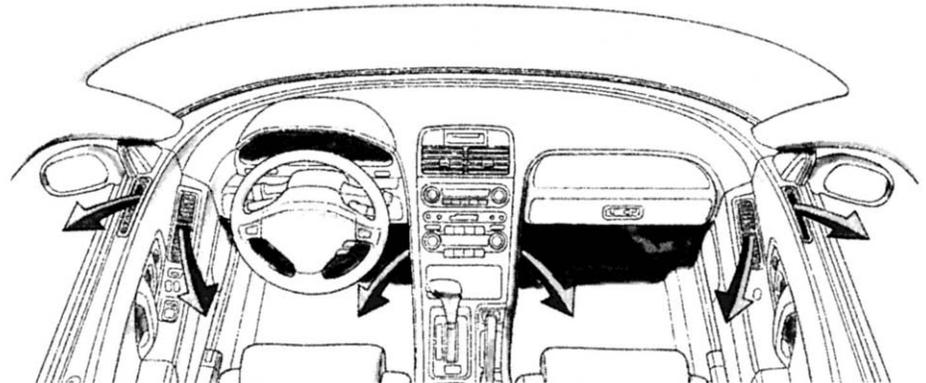
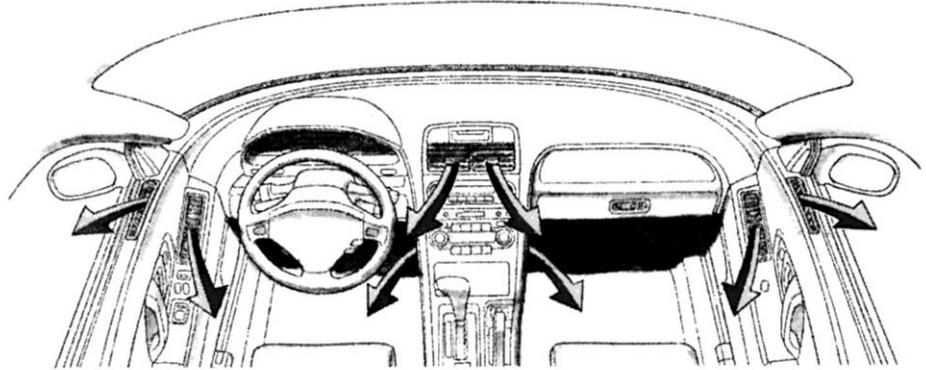


Automatic Climate Control

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



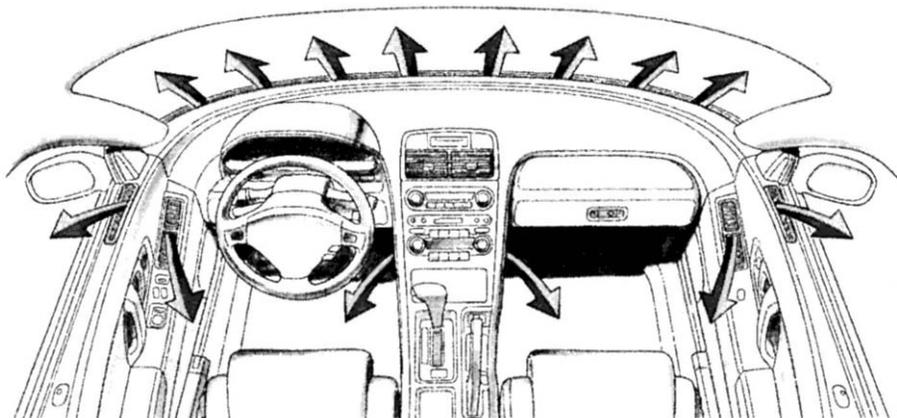
 — The main air flow is directed to the floor vents.



CONTINUED

Automatic Climate Control

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

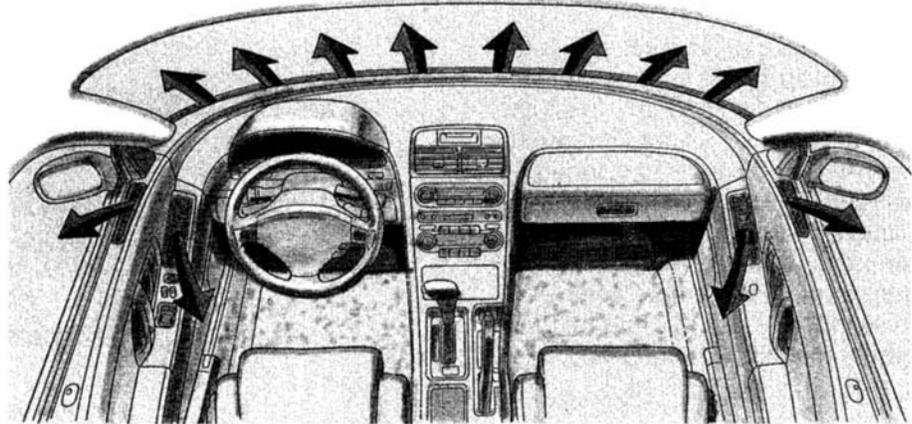


Automatic Climate Control

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. Press  and turn the fan speed dial to high. To turn off defrost, press the AUTO or DEFROST button.



**DEFROST
BUTTON**



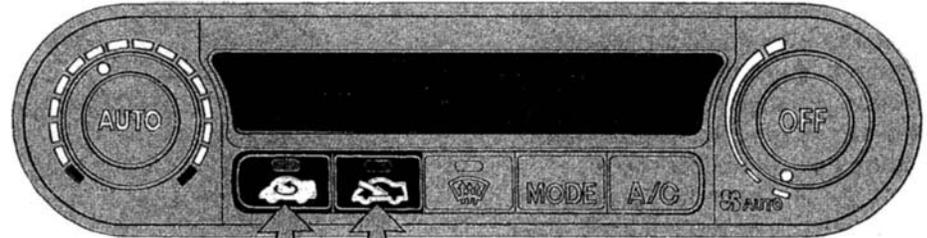
If there is frost on the windows, first select the  position. If the windows are fogged, select the  position. Warmed air will then flow from the windshield and side defroster vents.

CONTINUED

Automatic Climate Control

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 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.



RECIRCULATED FRESH AIR
AIR

Fan Speed

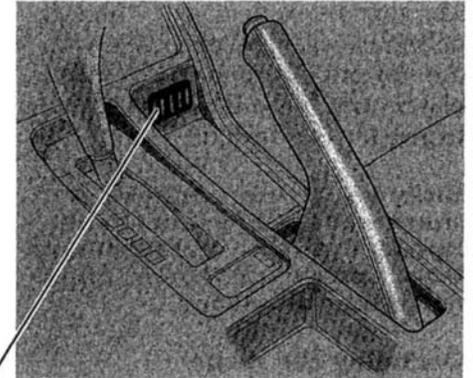
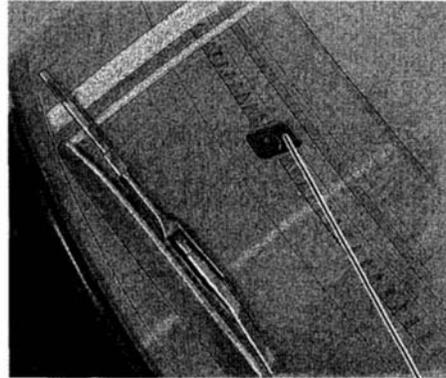
You can manually select the fan speed by turning the dial. You must turn the fan speed dial back to AUTO to go to fully-automatic climate control.



FAN SPEED

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 near them.



TEMPERATURE SENSOR

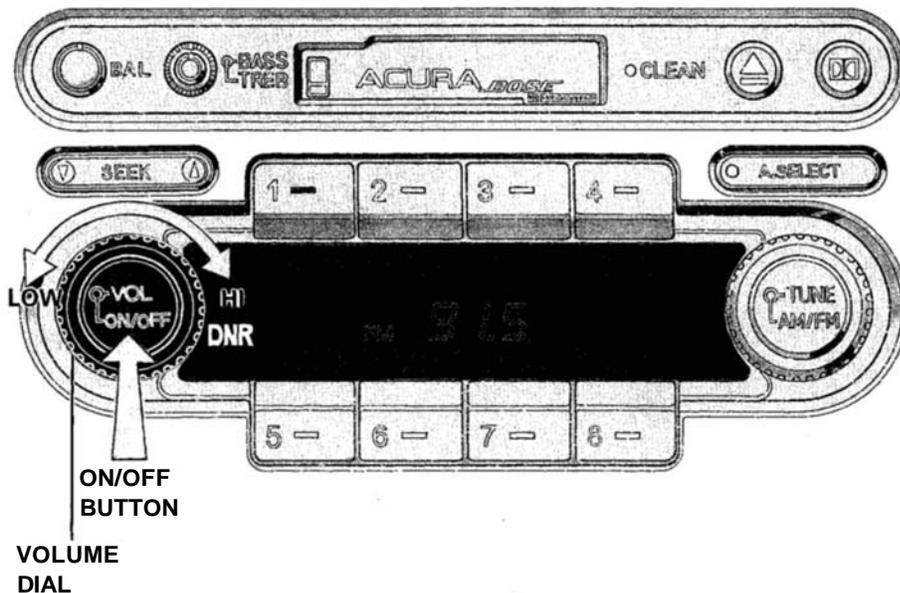
Audio System

The sound system in your NSX can deliver excellent reception on both the AM and FM bands. The cassette player uses Dolby B* noise reduction to give the best sound.

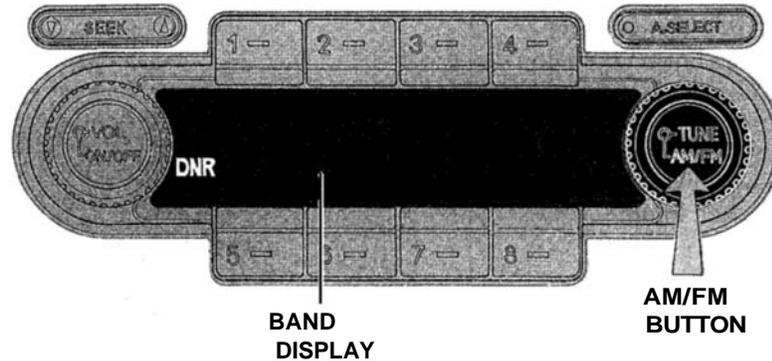
*Dolby noise reduction manufactured under license from Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation. "Dolby and the  symbol are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

Operating The Radio

Turn the radio on by pressing the ON/OFF button. The radio will come on and display the frequency of the last station it was tuned to. The power antenna will also extend. Adjust the volume with the VOL dial (outside ring of the left knob).

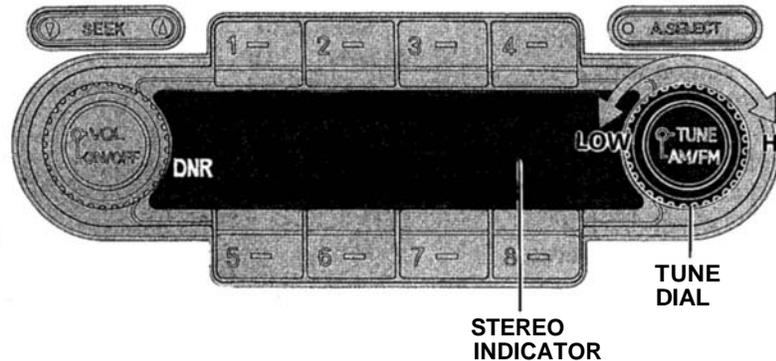


Select the AM or FM band by pushing the AM/FM button. The selected band is shown next to the frequency display.



Finding Radio Stations

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.

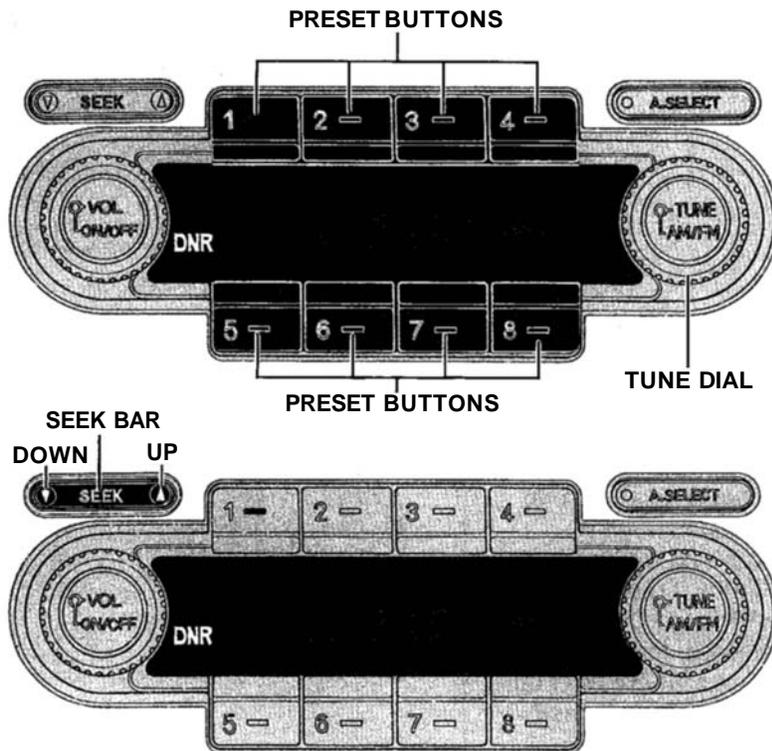


CONTINUED

Audio System

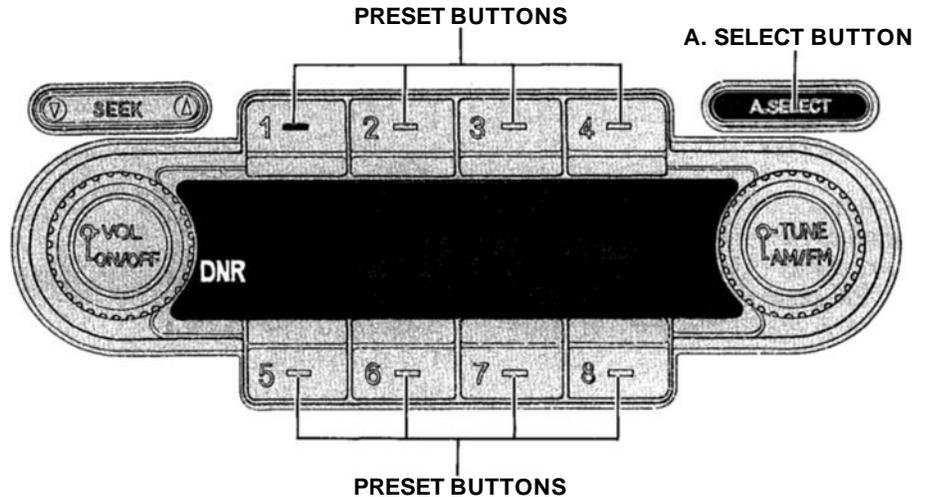
The easiest way to find your favorite stations is to set their frequencies into the eight preset buttons. To do this, tune to the desired station as described previously. Press one of the preset buttons (1—8) and hold it until you hear a beep. You can preset eight stations on each band.

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.



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 stations 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.

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



CONTINUED

Audio System

Radio Frequencies

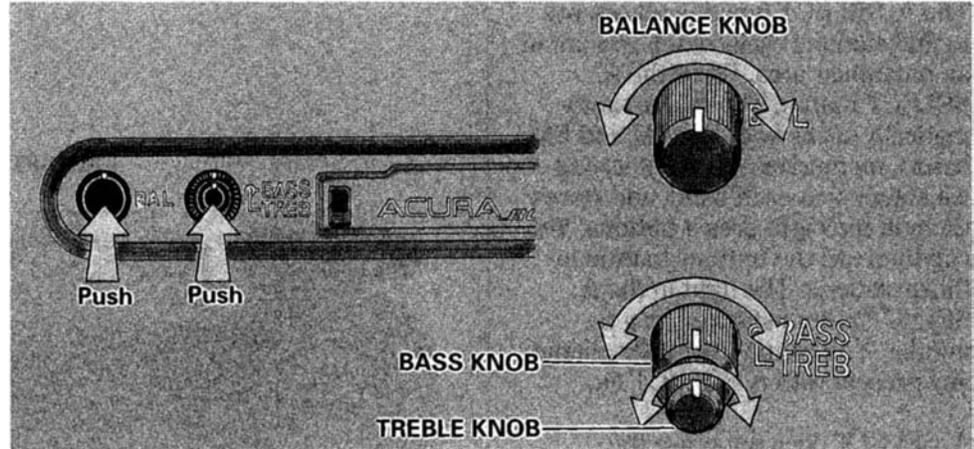
Your Acura's radio can tune in all frequencies in both the AM and FM bands. Those bands cover these frequencies:

AM band: 530 kilohertz to
1710 kilohertz

FM band: 87.7 megahertz to 107.9
megahertz

Radio stations on the AM band are assigned frequencies at least 10 kilohertz apart (530, 540, 550). Those 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 will show a frequency of 100.9 even though the announcer may call the station "FM 101."



Adjusting The Sound

Use the TREBLE and BASS knobs to adjust the tone quality to your liking. Push on the TREBLE 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.

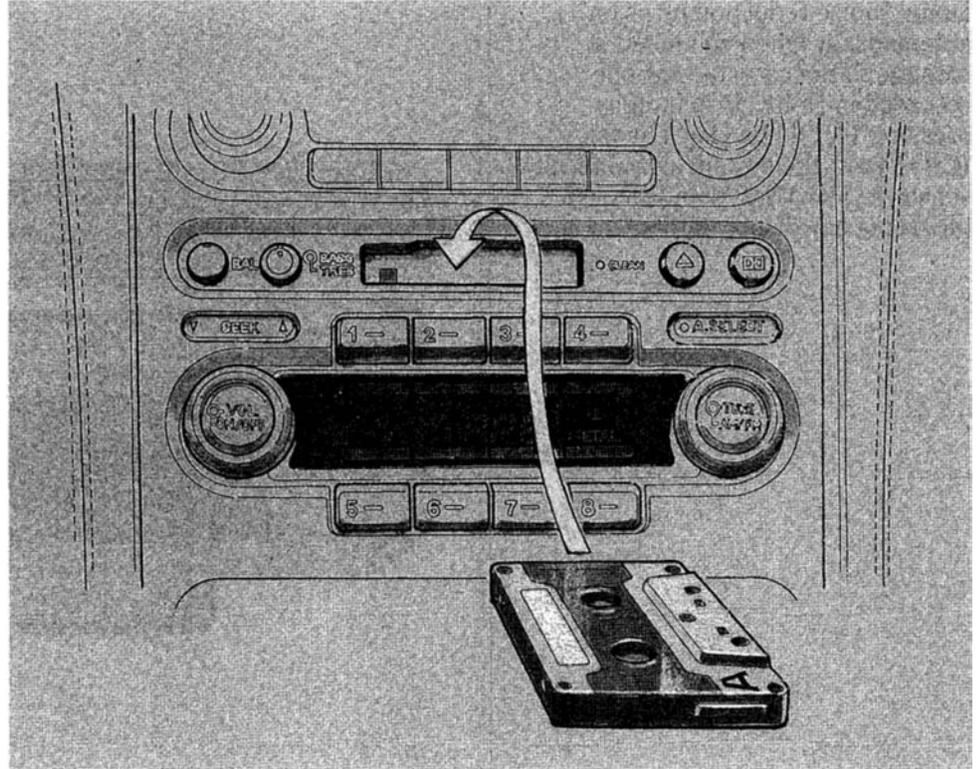
When the headlights are on, the radio panel illumination is on, even if the radio is turned off. The panel lighting can be turned off by first pushing the BAL control knob so it pops out, then pulling it out slightly farther.

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. An arrow in the display shows the direction of tape movement.

▲ means the side you inserted facing upward is now playing. To change programs, press the PROG button (7). The tape direction reverses.

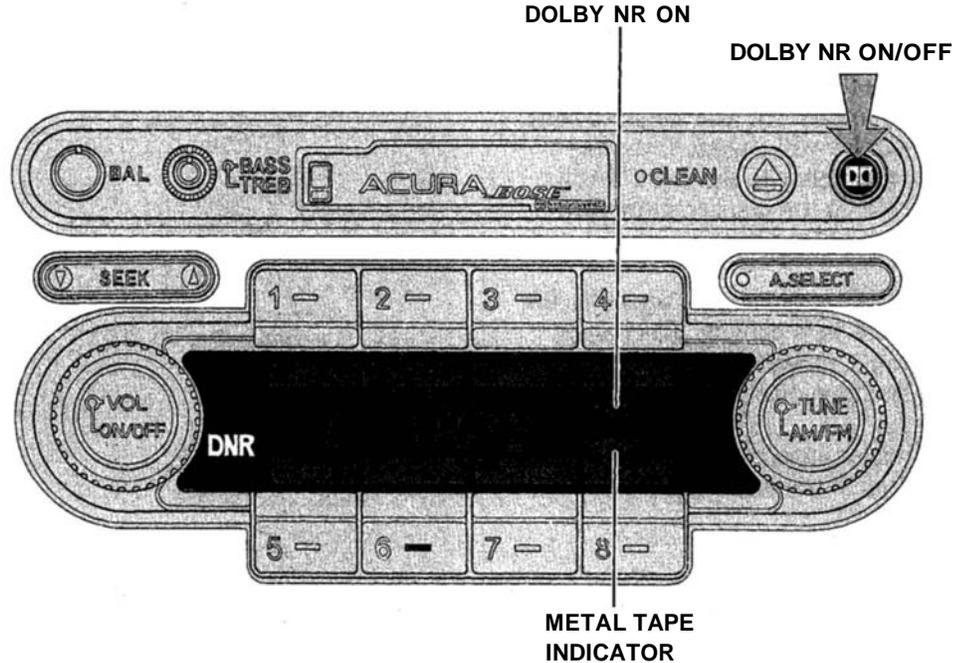
The player automatically reverses direction at the end of a tape.



CONTINUED

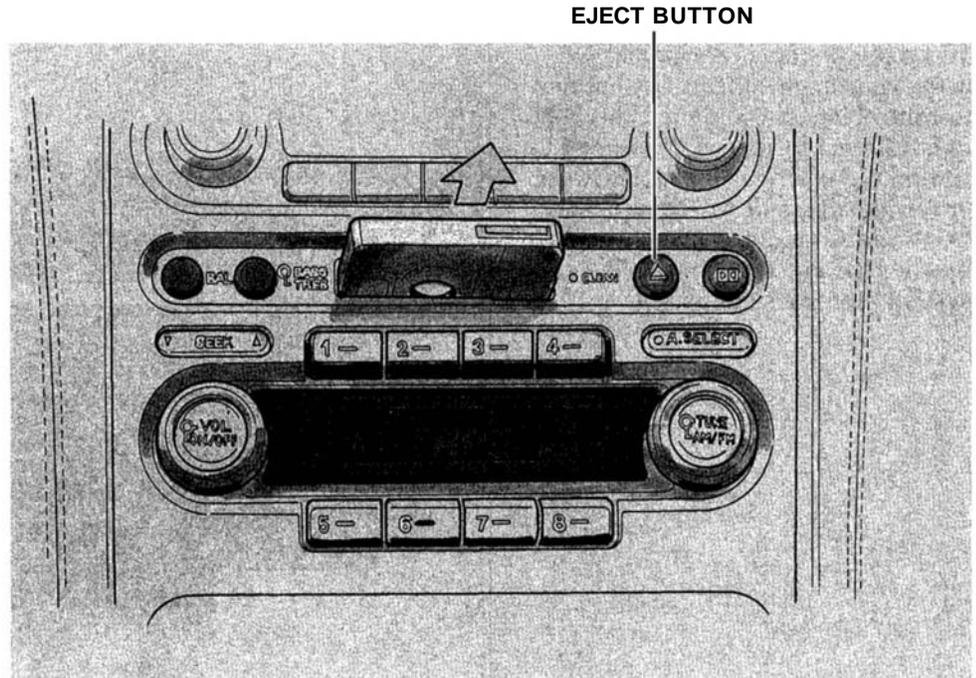
Audio System

Dolby® noise reduction turns on automatically when you insert a cassette. If the cassette was not recorded in Dolby, turn it off by pressing . If you play a metal (CrO₂) tape, the system automatically senses it. The METAL indicator in the frequency display lights.



Audio System

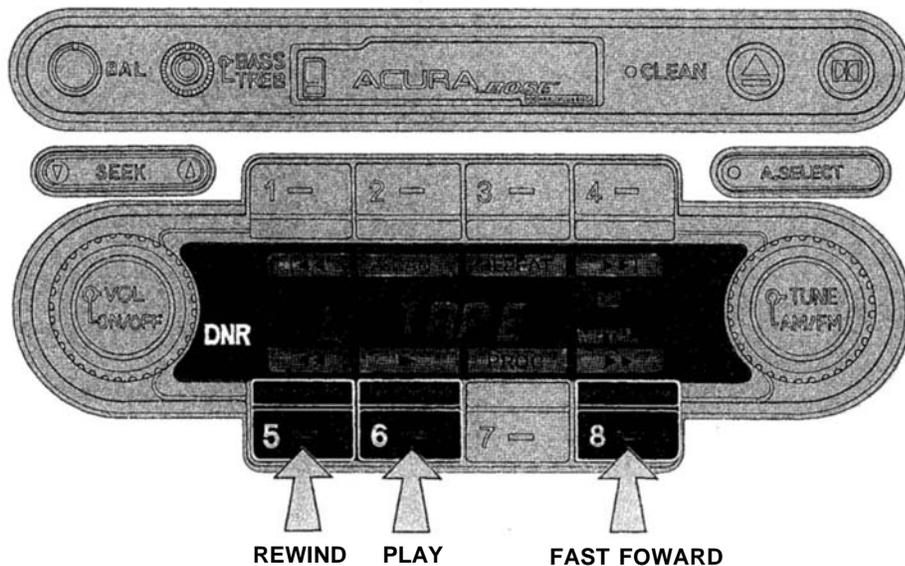
To remove the cassette, press the  button. The player automatically ejects the cassette when you turn the ignition or radio off.



CONTINUED

Audio System

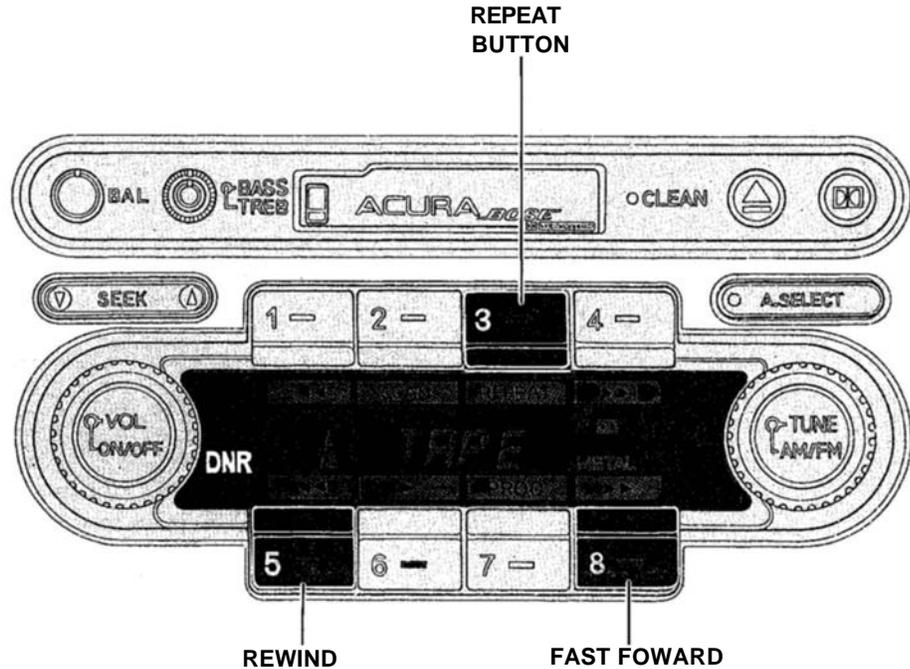
When the system is playing a cassette, you can use the preset buttons to control tape movement. Press ►► to fast forward the tape. Press ◀◀ to rewind the tape. To stop fast forward or rewind, press PLAY. Fast forward or rewind stops automatically when it reaches the end of the tape. The system then goes into play.



Tape Search Functions

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.

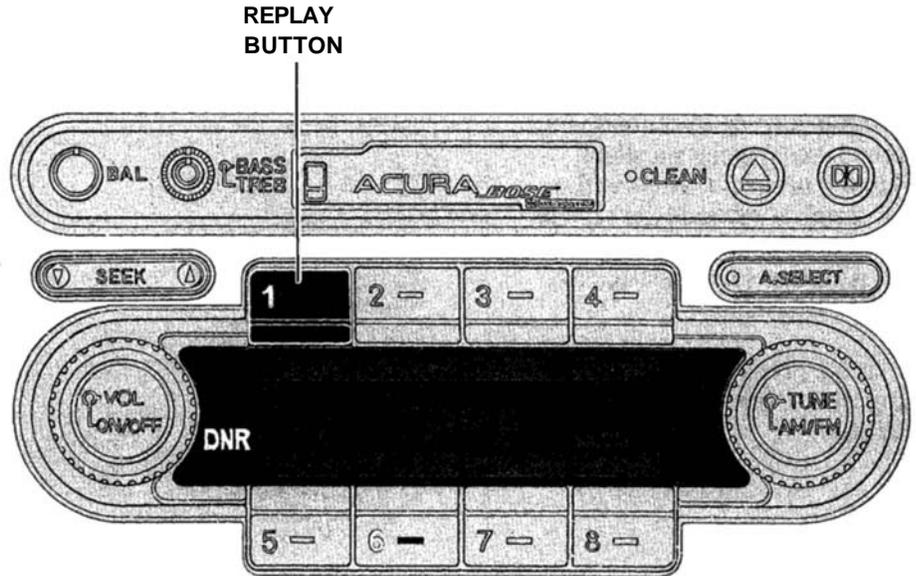
To turn it off, press the button again. Pressing ◀◀ or ▶▶ also turns off REPEAT.



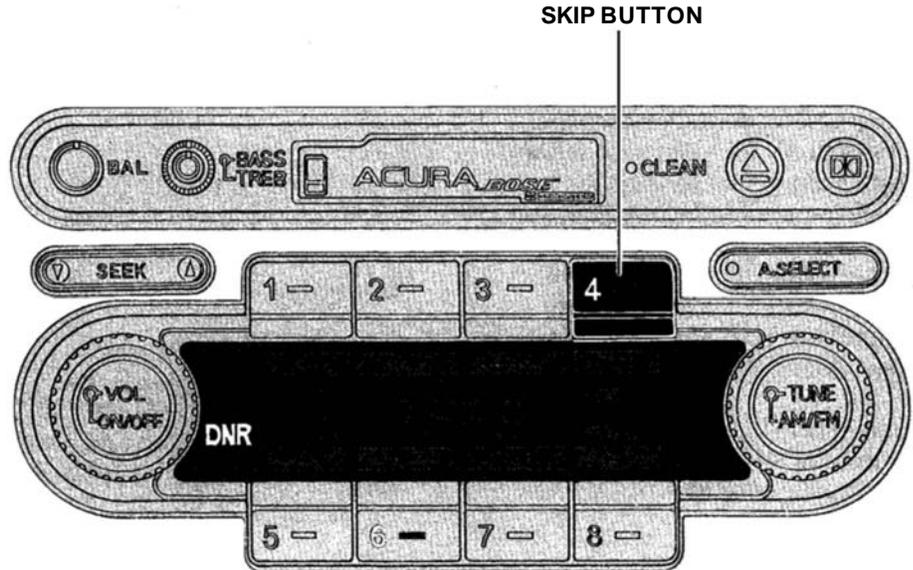
CONTINUED

Audio System

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 **REPLAY** again, the tape will play straight through.



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.

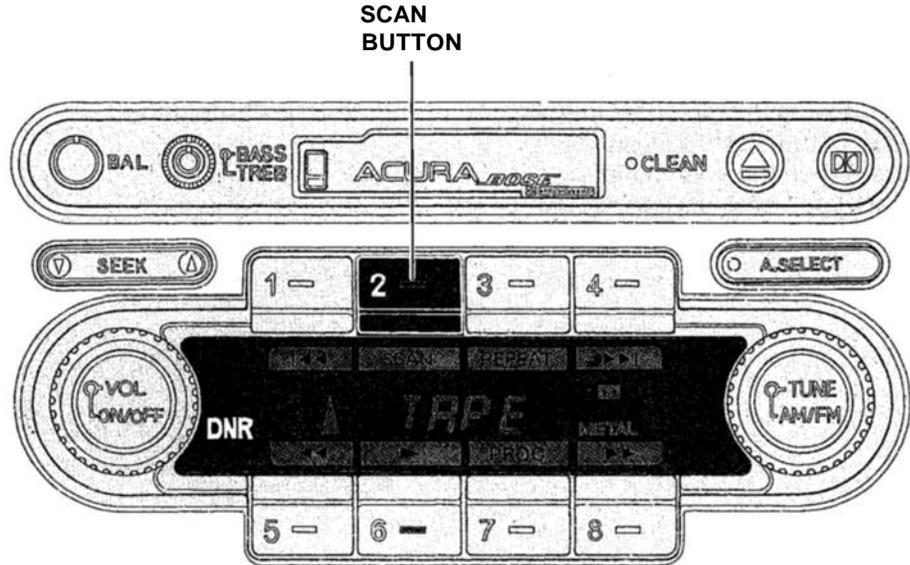


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Audio System

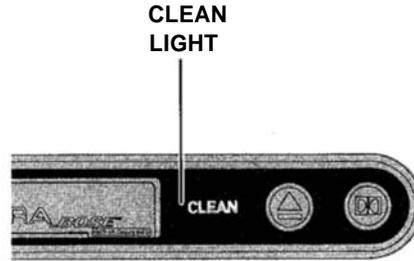
SCAN allows you to search a tape for a desired passage. When you press this button, the system goes into fast forward. It goes back to PLAY when it senses a silent period on the tape. It stays in PLAY for eight seconds so you can listen to that passage and decide if you want to hear it all. If you are 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.



The **⏮**, **⏭**, 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.

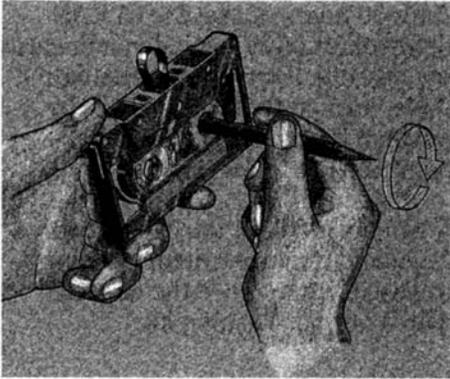
After 50 hours of use, the CLEAN light comes on to remind you to clean the cassette drive. After cleaning the drive, turn off the CLEAN light by pushing it in with the tip of a ball-point pen or similar object.

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

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

CONTINUED

Audio System



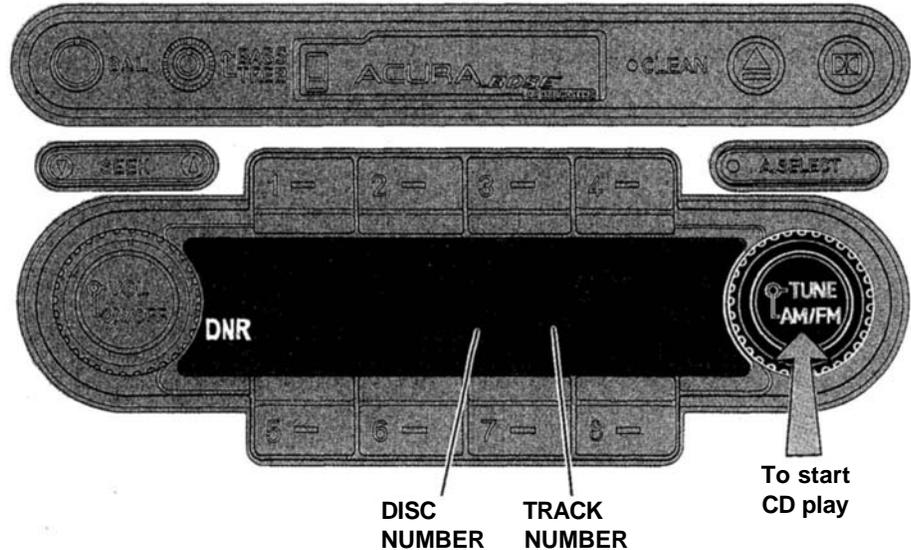
Look at a cassette before you insert it. If the tape is loose, tighten it by turning one of the hubs with a pencil or your finger. If the label is peeling off, do not put it in the player. It may cause the cassette to jam in the drive mechanism when you try to eject it.

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.

Operating the CD Player (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 CDs in the magazine and load the magazine in the changer according to the instructions included 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 is loaded and played. When disc 6 is completed, the system returns to disc 1.

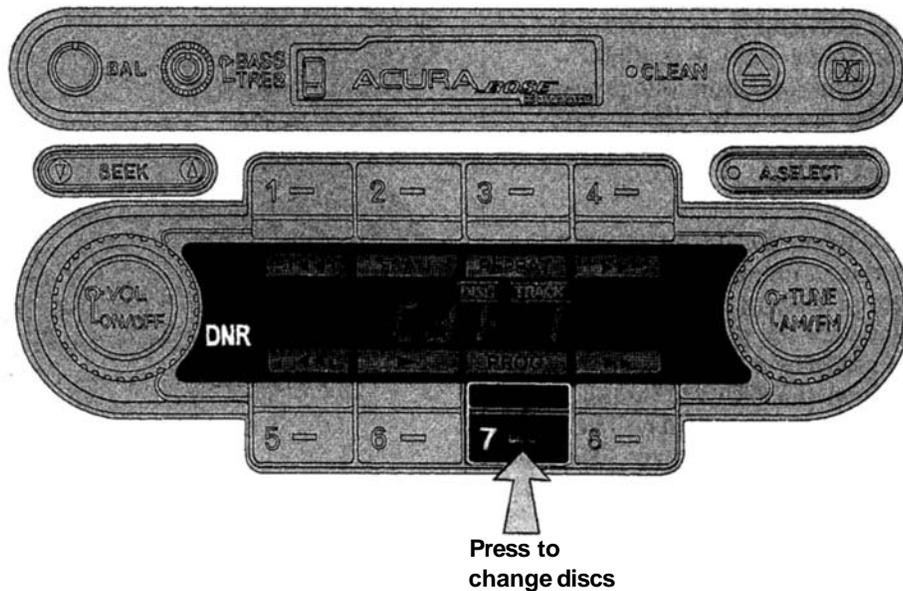


CONTINUED

Audio System

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

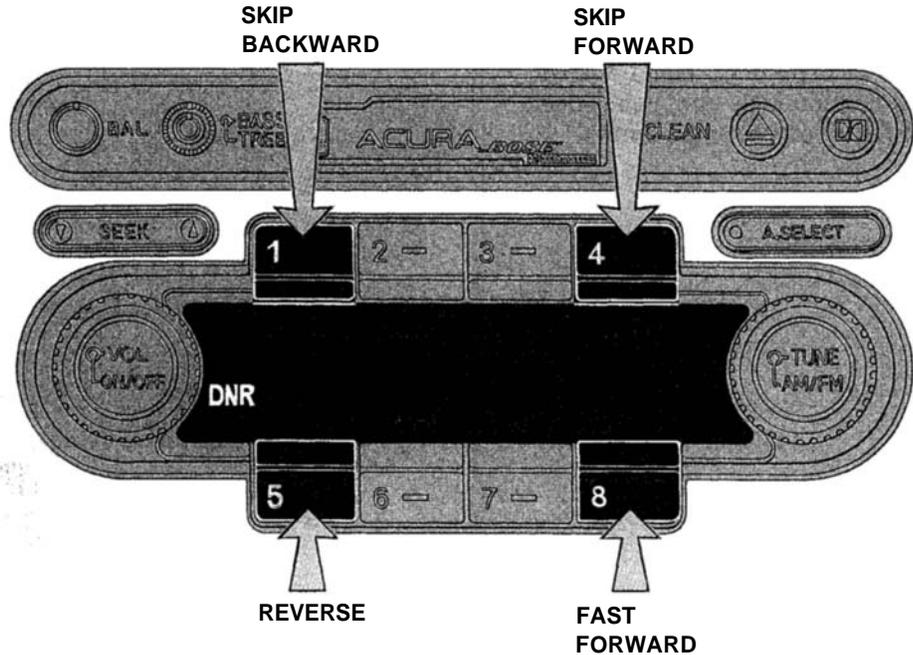
To return to the radio, press AM/FM
again. To turn the system completely
off, press the ON/OFF button.



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.

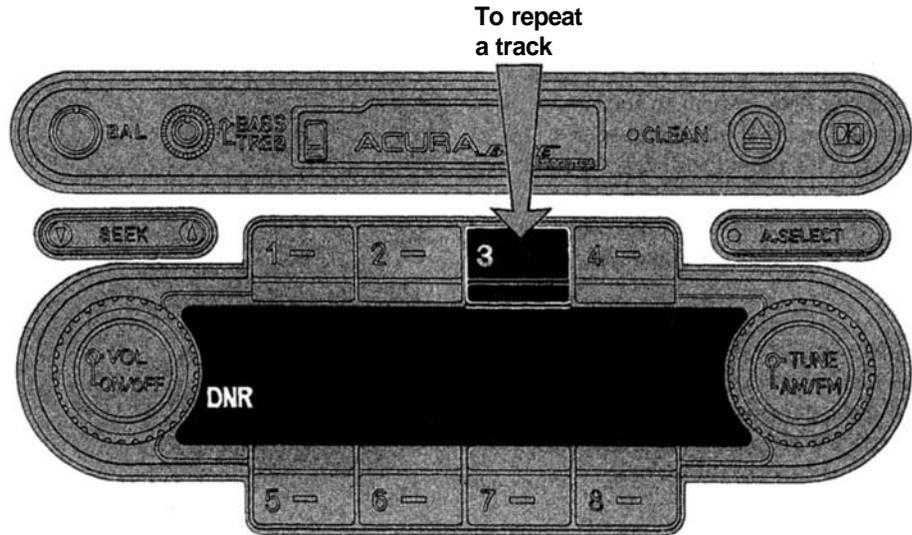
Each time you press ►►, the system skips forward to the beginning of the next track on that CD. Pressing ◀◀ skips backward to the beginning of the current track.



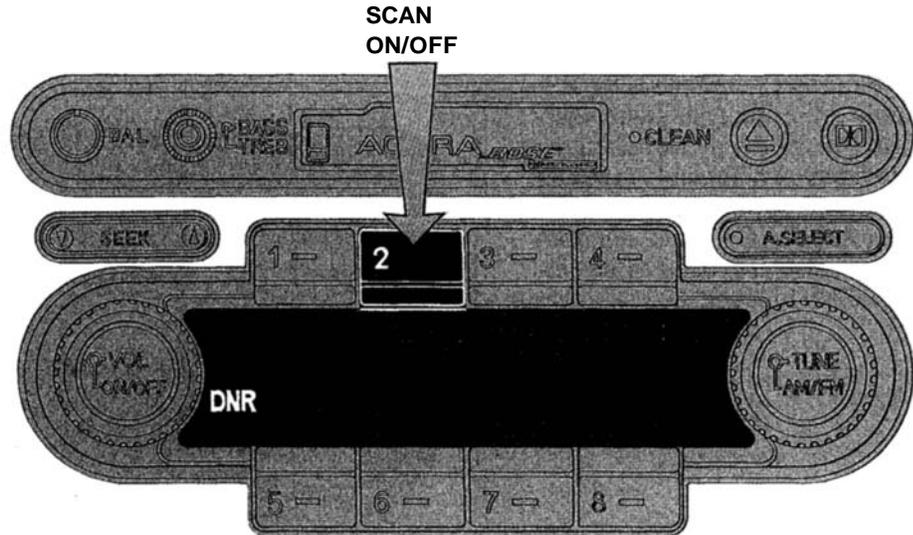
CONTINUED

Audio System

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.



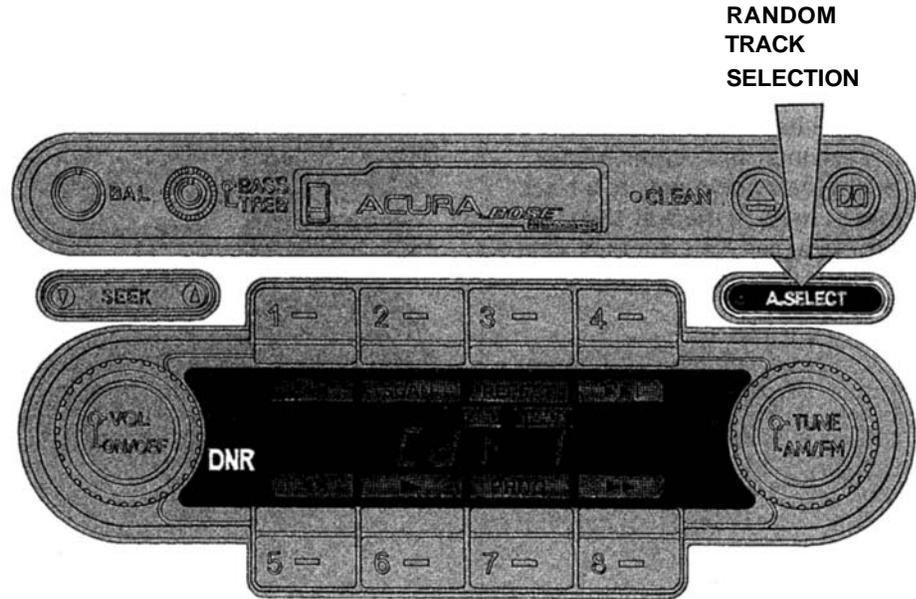
To search for a particular program on a disc, press SCAN. The system will skip forward to the next track and begin to play it. If you do not touch any of the controls, the system skips to the beginning of the next track after ten seconds and begins to play that. When the system gets to a track you want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



CONTINUED

Audio System

You can get the CD player 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.



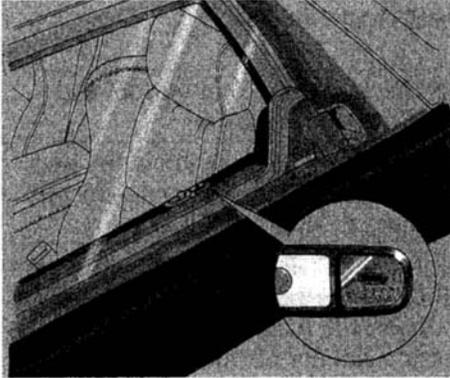
Error Indications

If you see an error indication on the display, 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-D 1</i>	Disc-changer malfunction.	Consult Acura dealer.
<i>E-D2</i>	Disc is in changer mechanism.	Press the magazine eject button, and insert an empty magazine.
<i>E-D3</i> <i>E-D4</i> <i>E-D5</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-D6</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-D7</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

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 41). 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 24), to see if the doors, rear window, and trunk are fully closed. Since it is not monitored, manually check the hood.

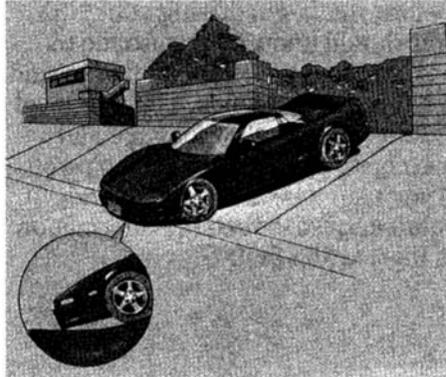
Before you begin driving your NSX, you should know what gasoline to use, and that your car is full of oil and other important fluids. You also need to know how to stow luggage and packages. This section will help you. If you plan to add any accessories to your car, please read the information in this section first.

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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.

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.
- If you need to add oil, use the engine oil recommended in this owner's manual (see page 128).
- 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 most effectively on premium unleaded gasoline with a pump octane number of 91 (research octane number of 96) or higher. If you are unable to find premium unleaded gasoline, an unleaded regular may be substituted. The engine will compensate for the lower octane, but you may notice a decrease in power as a result.

Using gasoline containing lead will damage your car's emission controls and engine. This contributes to air pollution and can void certain parts of your warranty.

Gasoline Containing Alcohol

To increase the octane rating, some gasoline companies blend alcohol with their gasoline. They normally use either ethanol (ethyl or grain alcohol) or methanol (methyl or wood alcohol). You can use a gasoline/alcohol blend in your car if its octane rating is 91 or higher. However, you should check its contents carefully first.

Gasoline blended with ethanol is sometimes marketed as gasohol. You can use gasohol in your car if it contains no more than 10% ethanol by volume.

CONTINUED

Gasoline, Service Station Procedures

If the gasoline is blended with methanol, make sure the methanol concentration is no more than 5% AND that the blend also contains cosolvents and corrosion inhibitors. Methanol is corrosive and will damage your car's fuel system if cosolvents and corrosion inhibitors are not included.

Some states require information about the alcohol content of the gasoline to be posted on the pump. If not, stations selling gasoline containing alcohol should be able to give you information about the type and percent of alcohol in their gas.

If you suspect problems with your engine's performance when using gasoline containing alcohol, switch to a conventional unleaded premium gasoline with the correct octane rating. Your warranty does not cover damage to your car or performance problems caused by gasoline containing alcohol.

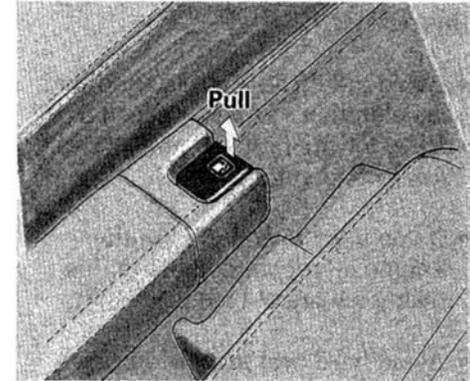
Driving In Foreign Countries

Using any type of leaded gasoline in your NSX will affect performance and damage its emission controls and engine. Unleaded gasoline may not be available in other countries. If you are planning to take your car outside the U.S. or Canada, telephone the Acura Customer Relations Office at (800) 382-2238.

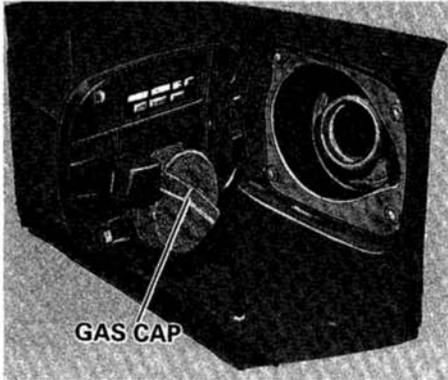
If you prefer, write to the Customer Relations Office at the address on page [219](#).

Service Station Procedures

Filling the Gas Tank



1. The fuel filler is on the driver's side of the car. Park with that side closest to the service station pumps.
2. Open the fuel filler door by pulling on the handle to the left of the driver's seat.



⚠ WARNING

Handling gasoline improperly can cause it to ignite or explode, causing you to be seriously or fatally injured.

Always put out cigarettes and other smoking materials, and keep all sparks and open flames away when you are around gasoline.

3. Remove the gas cap slowly. You may hear a hissing sound as pressure inside the tank escapes. Place the gas cap on the inside of the door as shown.

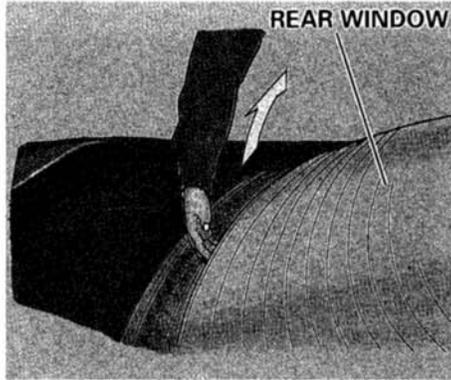
4. Stop filling the tank after the gas pump automatically clicks off. Do not try to "top off" the tank, leave some room for the fuel to expand with temperature changes.
5. Screw the gas cap back on, tighten it until it clicks.
6. Push the fuel filler door until it latches.



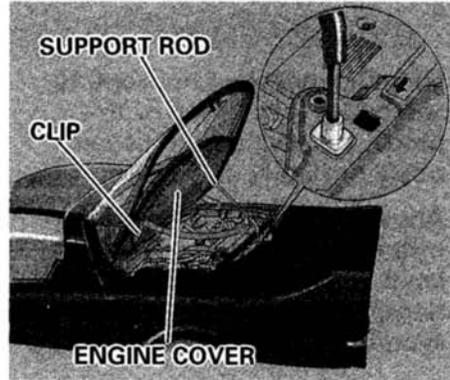
1. Locate the release handle on the rear of the driver's door opening, next to the seat. Pivot this handle towards the driver's seat. The rear window will pop up slightly.

CONTINUED

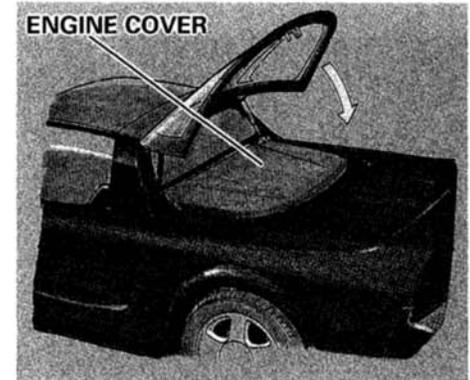
Service Station Procedures



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.



3. Lift the engine cover. Pull the support rod out of its clip on the engine cover and insert the end into the square hole in the bracket.

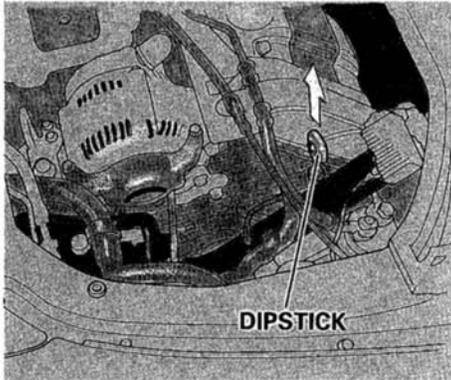


To Close the Rear Window:

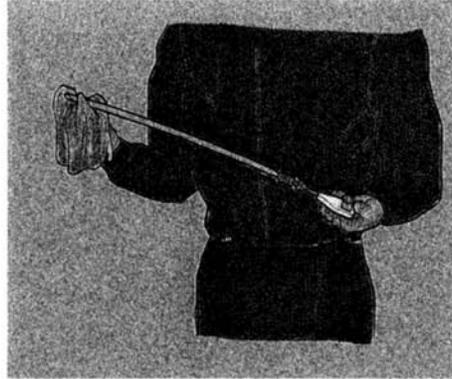
Snap the support rod back into the clip and lower the engine cover. Pull the rear window down until it is resting on the body, then push on the center of the back edge until it latches. Make sure it is securely closed before driving away.

Oil Check

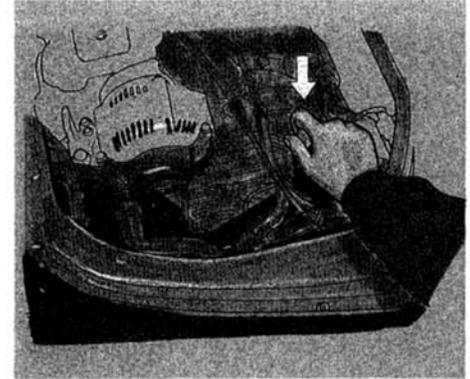
Check the engine oil level every time you fill the car with gas. Wait at least two minutes after turning the engine off before you check the oil.



1. Remove the dipstick (orange handle).



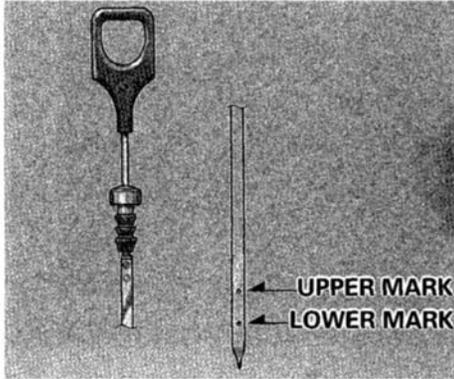
2. Wipe the dipstick with a clean cloth or paper towel.



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

CONTINUED

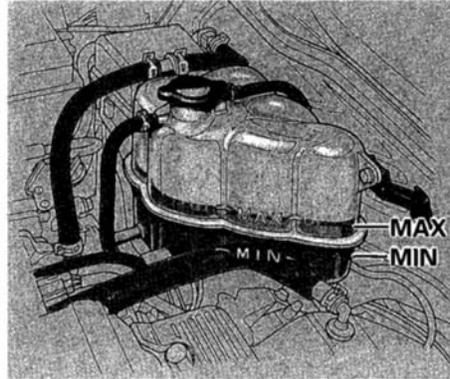
Service Station Procedures



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

If it is near or below the lower mark, see page [127](#) for information on the proper oil and how to add it.

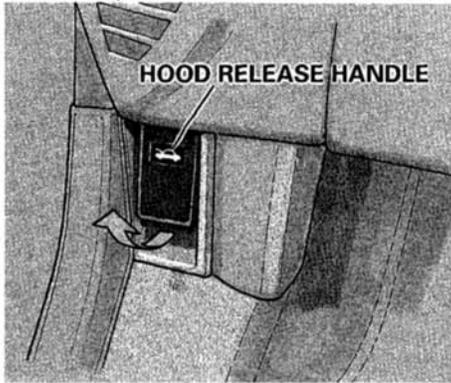
Coolant check



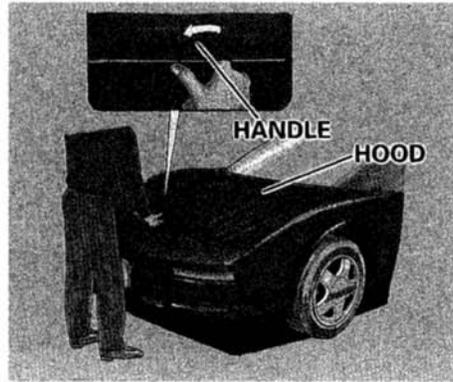
Look at the coolant level in the expansion tank. Make sure it is between MAX and MIN. If it is below the MIN mark, see **Adding Coolant** on page [131](#) for information on adding the proper coolant.

Refer to **Periodic Checks** on page [125](#) for information on checking other items in your NSX.

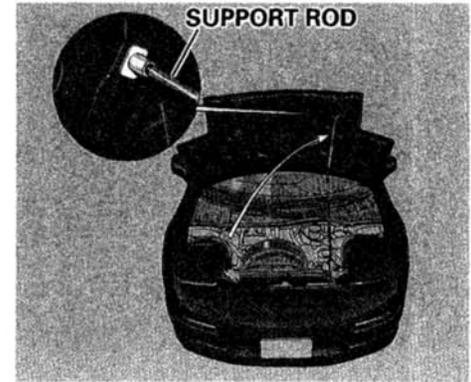
Checking the Front Compartment



1. Pull the hood release handle, located under the left lower corner of the dashboard. Shift to Park or Neutral and set the parking brake.



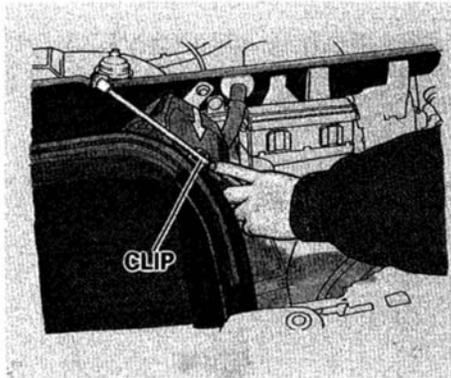
2. Standing in front of the car, put your fingers under the front edge of the hood to the right of center. Slide your hand to the left until you feel the hood latch handle. Push this handle to the left until it releases the hood. Lift the hood.



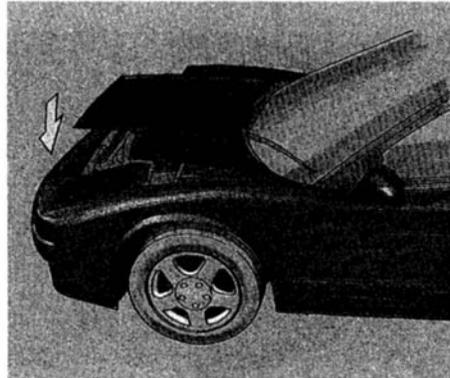
3. Pull the support rod out of its clip and insert the end into the square hole on the right side of the hood.
4. To close the hood, lift it up slightly to remove the support rod from the hole.

CONTINUED

Service Station Procedures



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



6. To close the hood, lower the hood about halfway down and let the hood drop. Make sure the hood is securely latched.

Refer to **Maintenance** on pages [119-165](#) 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 **Periodic Checks** (see page 125). Check the tire pressure at least monthly. An underinflated tire causes more "rolling resistance," which uses fuel. It also wears out faster. In winter, the build-up of snow on your car's underside adds weight and rolling resistance.

Driving Habits

You can improve fuel economy by driving moderately. Rapid acceleration, cornering, and hard braking use more fuel. Always drive in the highest gear that allows the engine to run and accelerate smoothly. Maintain a constant speed when cruising, depending on traffic conditions. 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. When you first start your car in the morning, do not let it idle for a long period. Drive away as soon as the engine is running smoothly. To cut down on the number of "cold starts," try to combine several short trips into one.

The air conditioner puts an extra load on the engine which makes it use more fuel. To cut down on air conditioner use, set the climate control to a higher temperature. You could also manually turn off the A/C and use the ventilation only.

Accessories

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 purchase in the "aftermarket" are designed for universal applications. Although they may fit your NSX, 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, Anti-lock Brake system and the Traction Control system. Strong electronic interference can affect their operation.

Electronic communications equipment, such as cellular telephones and two-way radios are regulated by the FCC 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 NSX. If possible, have your Acura dealer inspect the final installation.

Any packages or other items you want to transport should be stored in the trunk. They should be no heavier than 100 lbs (45 kg). If you must carry something in the passenger compartment that is too large to fit in the glove box, store it on the passenger side floor.

Do not store anything under the driver's seat. It can roll forward and block the pedals or your feet. You may not be able to brake or release the clutch.

The front compartment is not for carrying cargo. Parts of the Anti-lock brake system, SRS, and other systems are in the front compartment and could be accidentally damaged. Cargo may also restrict airflow through the radiator, causing overheating of the engine. Storing cargo in the area between the rear window and engine cover cuts your vision to the rear.

WARNING

The trunk gets very hot while driving. Carrying flammable liquids or aerosol products in the trunk can cause a fire or explosion.

Never carry flammable liquids or aerosol products in the trunk.

Because it is a sealed compartment next to the engine, the trunk can get very warm. Be careful of the type of items you store in it. Highly-flammable liquids (gasoline, kerosene) or aerosol cans could possibly catch fire or explode. Fresh or frozen food could spoil if left in the trunk for very long. Use the trunk to transport normal luggage, sports equipment, etc.

This section gives you tips on starting the engine under various conditions, and how to operate the 5-speed and automatic transmissions. It also includes important information on your car's braking system and the Traction Control System.

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Preparing To Drive

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. Check that any items you may be carrying with you inside are stored or fastened down securely.
4. Check the adjustment of the seat (see page 44).
5. Check the adjustment of the inside and outside mirrors (see page 46).
6. Check the adjustment of the steering wheel (see page 35).
7. Make sure both doors are securely closed and locked.
8. Fasten your seat belt. Check that your passenger has fastened his (see page 6).
9. Turn the ignition ON. Check the indicator lights on the instrument panel.
10. Start the engine (see page 105).
11. Check the gauges and indicator lights in the instrument panel (see page 22).

5-Speed Transmission

1. Apply the parking brake.
2. In cold weather, turn off all electrical accessories to reduce the drain on the battery.
3. Push the clutch pedal down all the way. START does not operate unless the clutch pedal is depressed.
4. Without touching the accelerator pedal, turn the ignition key to the START position. If the engine does not start right away, do not hold the key in START 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 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.

Automatic Transmission

1. Apply the parking brake.
2. In cold weather, turn off all electrical accessories to reduce the drain on the battery.
3. 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 position. If the engine does not start right away, do not hold the key in START for more than 15 seconds at a time. Pause for at least 10 seconds before trying again.

CONTINUED

Starting the Engine

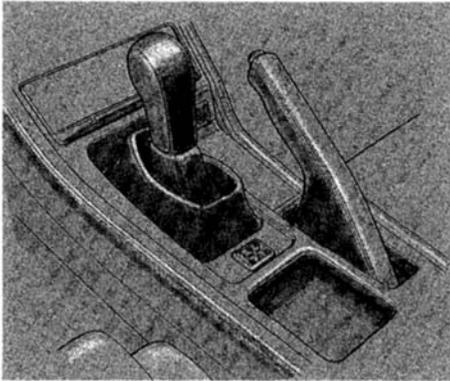
5. If the engine does not start within 15 seconds, or starts but stalls right away, repeat step 4 with the accelerator pedal pressed half-way down. If the engine starts, release pressure on the accelerator pedal so the engine does not race.
6. If the engine still does not start, press the accelerator 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 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 8000 feet)

An engine is harder to start in cold weather. The thinner air found at high altitude above 8000 feet 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 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.

5-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. 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. Depress the clutch pedal and pause for a few seconds before putting it in reverse, or shift into one of the forward gears for a moment. This stops the gears, so they won't "grind."

You can get extra braking from the engine when slowing down 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 red zone in the lower gear. Refer to the Maximum Speeds chart.

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	15mph (24km/h)
2nd to 3rd	25mph (40km/h)
3rd to 4th	40mph (64km/h)
4th to 5th	48mph (77km/h)

CONTINUED

Manual Transmission, Automatic Transmission

Maximum Speeds

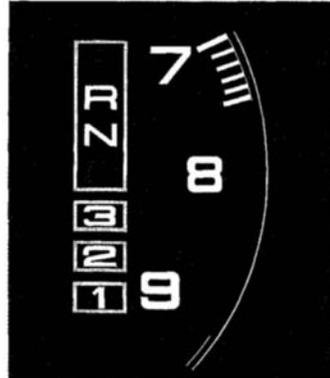
The speeds in this table are the maximums for the given gears. If you exceed these speeds, the engine speed will enter into the tachometer's red zone. If this occurs, you may feel the engine cut in and out. This is caused by a limiter in the engine's computer controls. The engine will run normally when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

Gear	Maximum Speeds
1st	45mph (72km/h)
2nd	81mph (130km/h)
3rd	114mph (182km/h)
4th	144mph (231km/h)
5th	Top Speed

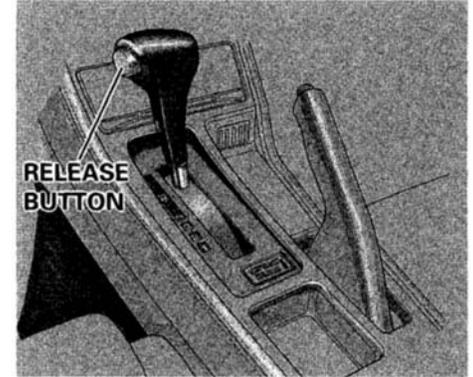
Automatic Transmission

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



This display is on the instrument panel in the tachometer. It shows you the position of the shift lever (see p. 26).

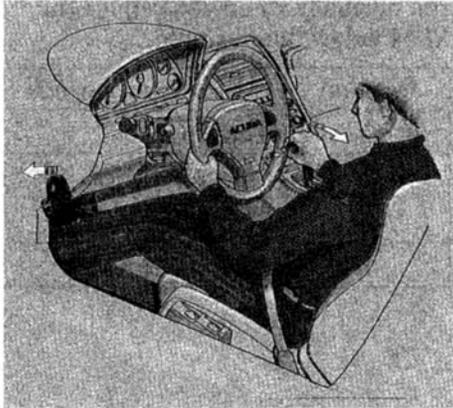


The shift lever has seven positions. It must be in Park or Neutral to start the engine.

To shift from:	Do this:
P to R	Press the brake pedal and push the release button.
R to P N to R 3 to 2	Push the release button.
2 to 1	Push the release button more than from 3 to 2.

Automatic Transmission

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. Push the release button on the side of the shift lever to move it.



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 will automatically select the proper gear for conditions. When you are stopped in Drive, 3, 2, 1 or Reverse press firmly on the brake pedal. Never press on the accelerator pedal at the same time. You may notice the transmission shifting up at higher speeds when the engine is cold. This helps the engine warm up faster. 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

3, 2, 1 — These positions hold the transmission in their respective gears. By upshifting and downshifting through Drive, 3, 2, and 1, you can operate this transmission much like a manual transmission without a clutch pedal. When you downshift, however, the transmission will not actually change gears unless the engine speed will stay below the red zone in the lower gear.

Put the shift lever in 2 when starting out on a loose or slippery surface. The reduced power will help prevent wheelspin.

If you start out with the shift lever in 3, the transmission will be in third gear. You can get the transmission to shift down to second gear temporarily by flooring the accelerator.

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 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.

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

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. Remove the key from the ignition switch.
2. Set the Parking brake.
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 could mean your car is developing a problem. Have the car checked by your Acura dealer.

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. Anti-lock Braking helps you retain steering ability in hard stops.

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 dry. Since a longer distance is needed to stop with wet brakes, be extra cautious and alert in your driving.

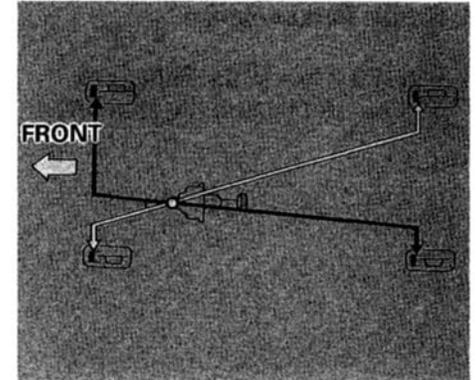
Brake Wear Indicators

All four brakes have audible brake wear indicators. When the brake pads need replacing, you will hear a "screeching" sound when you apply the brakes.

Your brakes may sometimes squeal or squeak when you use 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.



The Braking System

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. It is best to 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. Under very hard braking, the Anti-lock brake system helps you to maintain stopping and steering control. It does this by preventing the wheels from locking up and skidding. The Anti-lock brake system is always "ON". It requires no special effort or driving technique. You will feel a pulsation in the brake pedal if you brake hard enough for the Anti-lock brake system to activate. This is normal, and you should continue braking hard.

You may hear the sound of a small electric motor coming from under the hood, especially after braking very hard. This is the Anti-lock brake system pump working.



The Anti-lock brake system is self-checking. If anything goes wrong, the Anti-lock brake system indicator on the instrument panel comes on (see page 24). This means the Anti-lock function of the braking system has shut down. The brakes still work like a conventional system providing normal stopping ability. You should have the dealer inspect your car as soon as possible.

CONTINUED

The Braking System, Traction Control System

The Anti-lock brake system 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 confuse the Anti-lock brake system computer.

A car with Anti-lock brake system may require a longer distance to stop on loose or uneven surfaces than an equivalent car without Anti-lock brake system. Anti-lock brake system cannot make up for road conditions or bad judgment. It is still your responsibility to drive at reasonable speeds for weather and traffic conditions, and to leave a margin of safety.

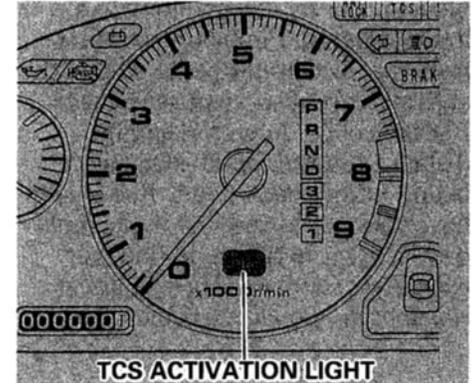
For a technical description of the Anti-lock brake system hardware, refer to page [210](#).

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.

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 active. You will see the TCS activation light flash.

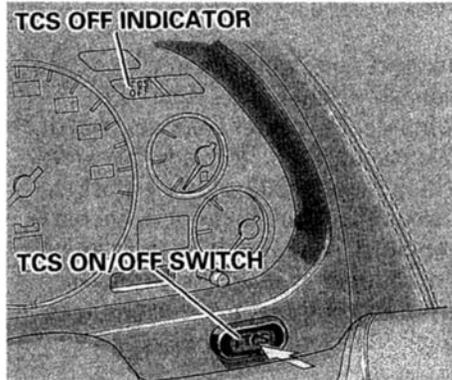


You should still install snow tires on your car during the winter. Exercise the same caution in winter driving as you would if your car was not equipped with TCS.

Traction Control System

Driving with the folding spare tire (see page 186) installed will activate the TCS. You may want to turn the system off under this condition.

TCS On/Off Switch

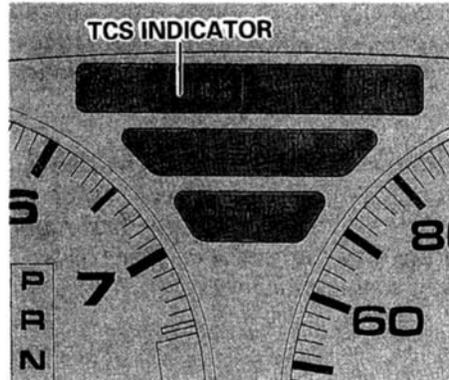


This switch is on the dashboard behind the right control pod. It lets you turn the Traction Control System on and off. You cannot turn off the TCS while the TCS Activation light is flashing.

Deactivate the system by pressing the TCS On/Off switch. The light in the switch goes out, and the TCS OFF indicator 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.

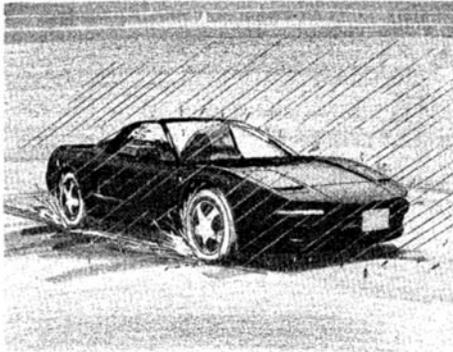
TCS Indicator



If the TCS develops a problem, the TCS indicator comes on and the TCS is automatically disabled. The TCS OFF indicator does not come on under this condition. If you see this, pull to the side of the road at your first opportunity and turn off the engine. Reset the system by restarting the engine, and see if the TCS indicator goes out. If it remains on, or comes back on again while driving, have the TCS inspected by your Acura dealer. You can still drive the car without TCS.

While driving, the TCS indicator may occasionally come on for a few seconds and then go out. This is normal.

Driving In Bad Weather



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 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.

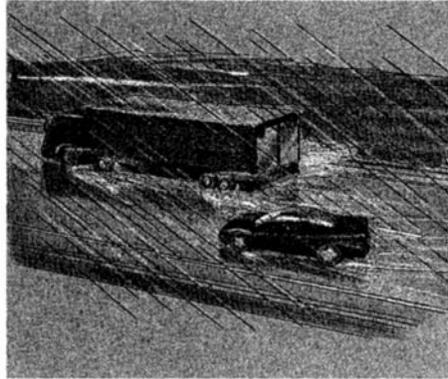
Inspect your windshield wipers and washers frequently. Keep the windshield washer reservoir full of the proper fluid. Replace the windshield wiper blades if they start to streak the windshield or leave parts unwiped. Use the defrosters and air conditioner to keep the windows from fogging up on the inside (see page 61).

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 install a trailer hitch on your NSX can cause serious damage to its undercarriage.

Regularly maintaining your NSX is the best way to protect your investment. You will be rewarded with safer, more economical, trouble-free driving. This section tells you how to check many items on your car, and how to perform simple do-it-yourself maintenance. It also includes the maintenance schedules for normal and severe driving conditions.

If you are interested in how to perform more complex maintenance on your NSX, you can purchase the NSX Service Manual. See page 221 for information on how to obtain a copy, or see your Acura dealer.

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CONTINUED

Maintenance Schedule

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

The services and periods shown in the maintenance schedule are based on the assumption you will use your car as it was designed, which is:

- To carry a driver, passenger and cargo while not exceeding the load limits shown on the label on the driver's door jamb.
- To be operated on reasonable roads within the legal speed limit.
- To be driven regularly over a distance of several miles.
- To be run on a premium unleaded gasoline with a pump octane number of 91 (research octane number of 96) or higher.

Your 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 on page [123](#). Check your warranty booklet for more information.

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.

Vehicles sold in California have slightly different maintenance requirements. These are noted in the Required Maintenance. Other maintenance operations are required by California regulations, and condition the emission warranty.

Maintenance Schedule

R—Replace C—Clean I—Inspect After inspection, clean, adjust, repair or replace if necessary.

Service at the interval listed x 1,000 miles (or km) or after that number of months, whichever comes first.	x 1,000 mile	7.5	15	22.5	30	37.5	45	52.5	60	67.5	75	82.5	90
	x 1,000 km	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144
	months	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
Brakes (Non-emission Related)													
Front brake pads		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
<input type="checkbox"/> Front brake discs and calipers			II		II		II		II		II		II
<input type="checkbox"/> Rear brake discs, calipers and pads			II		II		II		II		II		II
Brake hoses and lines (including Anti-lock brake system)			I		I		I		I		I		I
Parking brakes			I		I				I				I
Brake fluid (including Anti-lock brake system)					R				R				R
Anti-lock brake system operation					I				I				I
Anti-lock brake system high pressure hose									R				
Steering and suspension (Non-emission Related)													
Front wheel alignment			I		I		I		I		I		I
Steering operation, tie rod ends, steering gear box and boots			I		I				I				I
<input type="checkbox"/> Power steering system			II		II		II		II		II		II
Suspension mounting bolts			I		I		I		I		I		I

Severe Driving Conditions

Items with an **II** or **III** in the chart will need service more often, if you drive in some severe conditions.

The conditions are:

- A. Repeated short distance driving.
- B. Dusty conditions.
- C. Severe cold weather.
- D. Areas with road salt or other corrosive materials.
- E. Rough or muddy roads.

The services are:

- Clean the air cleaner element every 7,500 miles (12,000 km) or 6 months and replace every 30,000 miles (48,000 km) or 24 months under condition B or E.
- Replace engine oil and oil filter every 3,750 miles (6,000 km) or 3 months under condition A or B.
- Inspect front and rear brake discs and calipers, and rear brake pads every 7,500 miles (12,000 km) or 6 months under condition A, B, D, or E.
- Inspect the power steering system every 7,500 miles (12,000 km) or 6 months under condition B, C, or E.

R—Replace C—Clean I—Inspect After inspection, clean, adjust, repair or replace if necessary.

Service at the interval listed x 1,000 miles (or km) or after that number of months, whichever comes first.	x 1,000 mile	7.5	15	22.5	30	37.5	45	52.5	60	67.5	75	82.5	90
	x 1,000 km	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144
	months	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
Emission Related													
<input type="checkbox"/> Air cleaner element					R				R				R
Idle speed and idle CO									I				
E. G. R. system									I				
Evaporative emission control system									I				
Ignition timing									I				
Positive crankcase ventilation valve									I				
Valve clearance		I			I		I		I		I		I
Fuel filter and hoses									R				
Fuel line connections					I ^{*1}				I				I
Spark plugs									R ^{*4}				
● Engine oil and oil filter	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Alternator drive belt					I ^{*2}				I				I
Cooling system hoses and connections					I				I				I
● Radiator coolant							R				R ^{*3}		
Transmission oil					R				R				R
Engine (Non-emission Related)													
Timing belt													R
Water pump													I
Catalytic converter heat shield									I				
Exhaust pipe and muffler		I			I		I		I		I		I

- Check oil and coolant level at each fuel stop.
- Under severe driving conditions, service these items more often.
- *1 For cars sold in California, this service is recommended only; other areas, it is required.
- *2 Tension adjustment only.
- *3 Thereafter, replace every 2 years or 30,000 miles (48,000 km), whichever comes first.
- *4 Replace every 6 years or 60,000 miles (96,000 km), whichever comes first.

Required Maintenance Record

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

7,500 Mi. 12,000 km. (or 6 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
15,000 Mi. 24,000 km. (or 12 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
22,500 Mi. 36,000 km. (or 18 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
30,000 Mi. 48,000 km. (or 24 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
37,500 Mi. 60,000 km. (or 30 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
45,000 Mi. 72,000 km. (or 36 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date

52,500 Mi. 84,000 km. (or 42 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
60,000 Mi. 96,000 km. (or 48 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
67,500 Mi. 108,000 km. (or 54 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
75,000 Mi. 120,000 km. (or 60 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
82,500 Mi. 132,000 km. (or 66 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date
90,000 Mi. 144,000 km. (or 72 Mo.)	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage
		Date

Non-Scheduled Maintenance Record

Record additional maintenance for severe driving conditions or non-scheduled maintenance on this page. (See page [122](#))

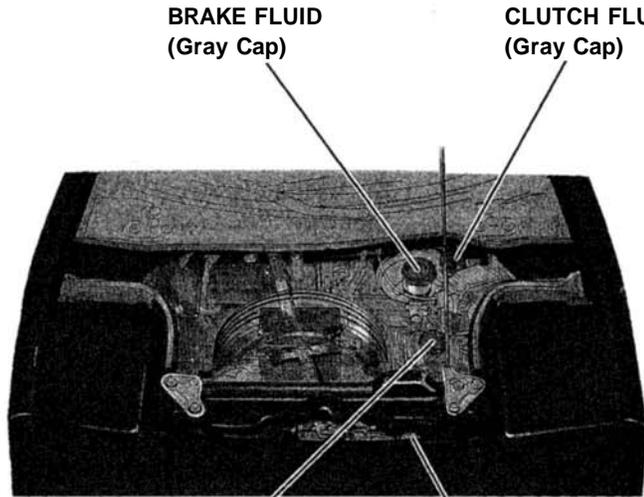
Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date
Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date
Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date
Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date
Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date
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Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date
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Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date
Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date
Maintenance Performed:	(Sign or Stamp)	Mileage Date

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

- Engine oil level — check every time you fill the gas tank. See page [127](#).
- Engine coolant level — check the expansion tank every time you fill the gas tank. See page [131](#).
- 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 gas. See page [137](#).
- Automatic transmission — check the fluid level monthly. See page [138](#).
- Brakes and clutch — check the fluid level monthly. See page [140](#).
- Tires — check the tire pressure monthly. Examine the tread for wear and foreign objects. See page [154](#).
- Battery — check its condition and the terminals for corrosion monthly. See page [147](#).
- Air conditioner — check its operation weekly. See page [54](#).
- Lights — check the operation of the headlights, parking lights, tail lights, turn signals, brake lights, and license plate light monthly. See page [30](#).

Fluid Locations



BRAKE FLUID
(Gray Cap)

CLUTCH FLUID
(Gray Cap)

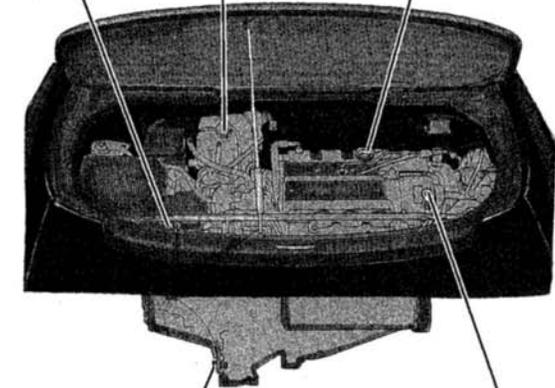
**ANTI LOCK BRAKE
RESERVOIR**
(Grey Cap)

WASHER FLUID
(Blue Cap)

**AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
FLUID DIPSTICK**
(Yellow Loop)

**ENGINE OIL
FILLER CAP**

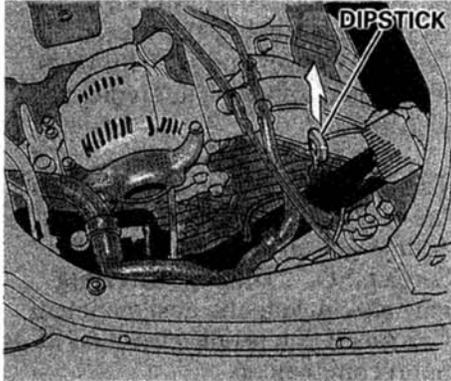
**EXPANSION
TANK CAP**



**MANUAL TRANSMISSION
FILLER BOLT**

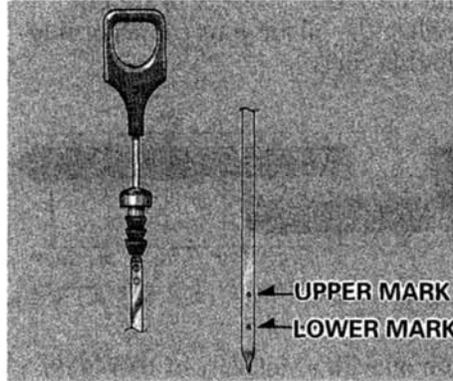
**ENGINE OIL
DIPSTICK**
(Orange Loop)

Checking Engine Oil



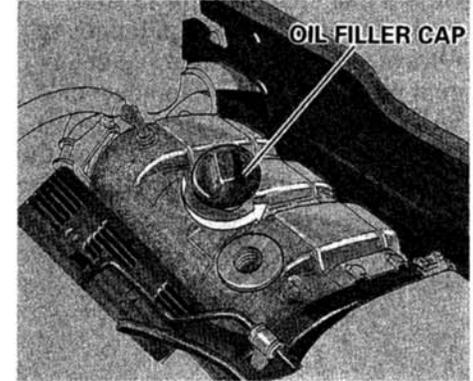
Check the engine oil a couple of minutes after shutting off the engine. Make sure the car is parked on level ground. This will allow the oil to drain down into the bottom of the engine.

1. Pull out the dipstick and wipe it clean with a cloth or paper towel.
2. Reinsert it all the way in as far as it will go.



3. Pull the dipstick out and look at the oil level at the end of the dipstick. If it is between the upper and lower marks, the level is correct.

Adding



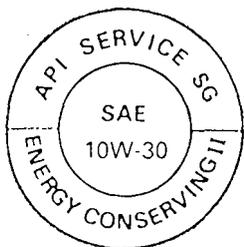
If the oil level reaches the lower mark on the dipstick, add one quart of the recommended engine oil. To do this, unscrew and remove the oil filler cap on top of the front valve cover. Pour in the oil, and replace the filler cap. Make sure it is securely tightened.

CONTINUED

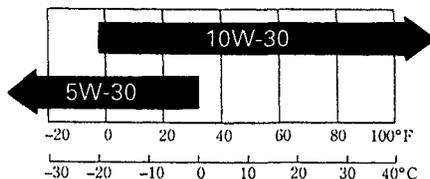
Engine Oil

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. It should look like this:



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



An oil with a viscosity of 10W-30 is preferred for improved fuel economy and year-round protection in your NSX. You may use a 5W-30 oil if the climate in your area is within the temperature range shown on the chart.

A fuel-efficient oil is recommended for your NSX. This is shown on the API Service label by the words "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 says "API Service SG." This service rating may also include the designation of CD. An oil that is only classified SF is not recommended.

Additives

Your NSX 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.

Oil and Filter Changes

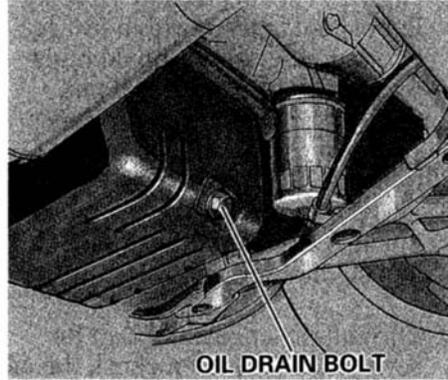
Always change the oil and filter according to the time and mileage recommendations on the maintenance schedule. The oil and filter collect contaminants that can damage your engine if they are not removed regularly. Changing the oil and filter requires special tools and access from underneath the car. 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.

⚠ CAUTION

Repeated, prolonged exposure to used motor oil may cause skin cancer.

Wash your hands thoroughly with strong soap as soon as possible after handling used oil.

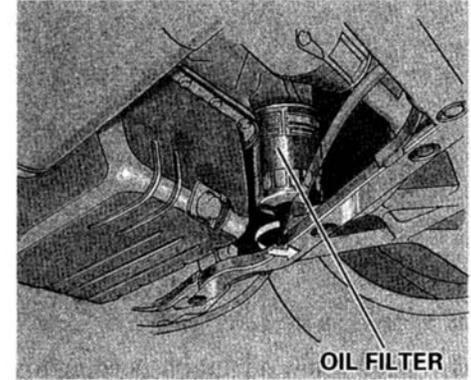
To change the oil and filter:



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

⚠ CAUTION

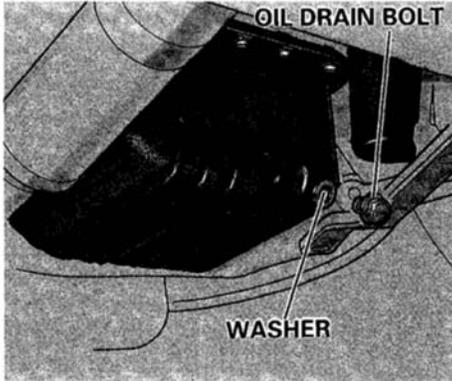
The oil and engine components are hot and can burn you. Use caution and wear protective clothing while changing the oil and filter.



2. Remove the oil filler 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.

CONTINUED

Engine Oil



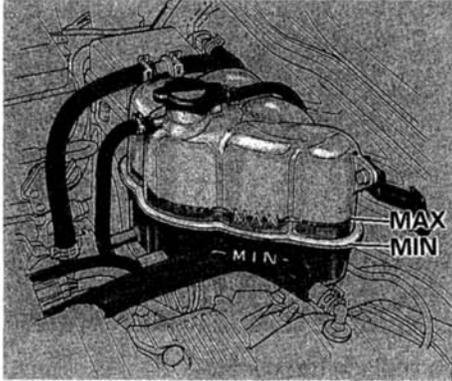
4. Install a new oil filter according to instructions that come with it.
5. Put a new washer on the drain bolt, then reinstall the drain bolt. Tighten it to 33 lb-ft (46 N.m).
6. Refill the engine with the recommended oil.
Engine Oil Capacity: 5.3 US qt (5.0 ℓ)

7. Replace the oil filler cap. Start the engine. The oil pressure warning light should go out within five seconds and the gauge should register normal oil pressure. If 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.

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.

The oil and filter should be changed every 6 months or 7500 miles (12,000 km), whichever comes first. Under severe driving conditions, they should be changed every 3 months or 3750 miles (6,000 km). See page [122](#) for a description of severe driving conditions.

Checking the Coolant Level



Check the level of the engine coolant by looking at the expansion tank mounted above the engine. If the level is at or below the MIN line, add coolant to bring it up to the MAX line. This coolant should always be a mixture of 50% antifreeze and 50% water. Never add straight antifreeze or plain water.

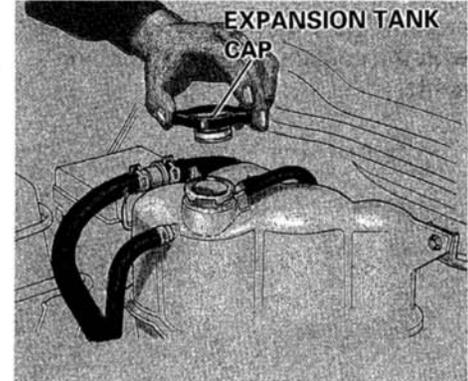
Always use Genuine Honda Antifreeze/Coolant. The cooling system contains many aluminum components which can corrode if an improper antifreeze is used. Some antifreezes, even though they are labeled as safe for aluminum parts, may not provide adequate protection.

⚠ 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.

Adding Coolant



Loosen the expansion tank cap by turning it counterclockwise, without pushing it down, until it stops. This will relieve any remaining pressure in the cooling system. Then remove the cap by pushing down and turning. Fill the expansion tank with coolant to the MAX line and put the cap back on.

CONTINUED

Cooling System

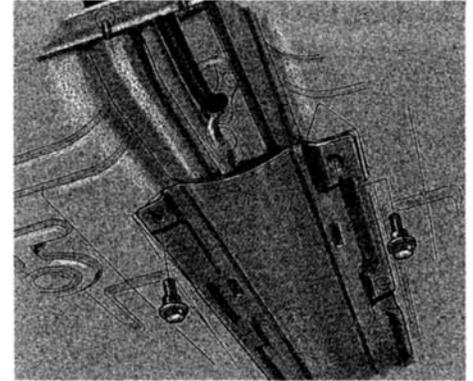
Do not add any rust inhibitors or other additives to your car's cooling system. They may not be compatible with the coolant or engine components.

Replacing Coolant

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

Replacing the coolant requires special tools and access from underneath the car. Unless you have the tools and knowledge, you should have this maintenance done by a skilled mechanic.

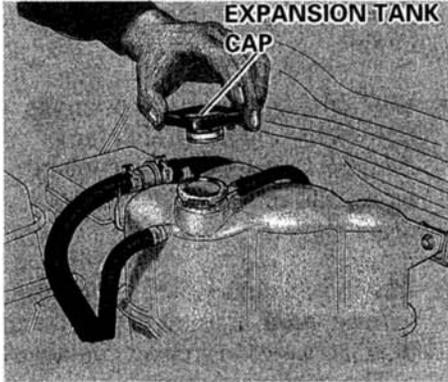
Before replacing the coolant, turn the ignition ON, slowly turn the climate control temperature knob to 90°F and turn off the ignition. This will allow the coolant in the heater to drain out with the rest of the system.



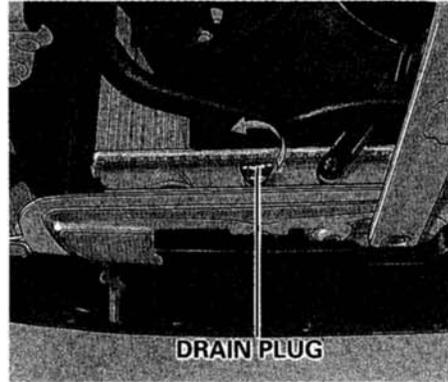
To replace the coolant:

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.

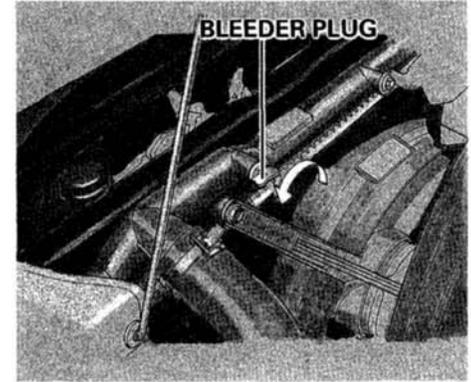
Cooling System



3. With the engine and radiator cool to the touch, remove the expansion tank cap.



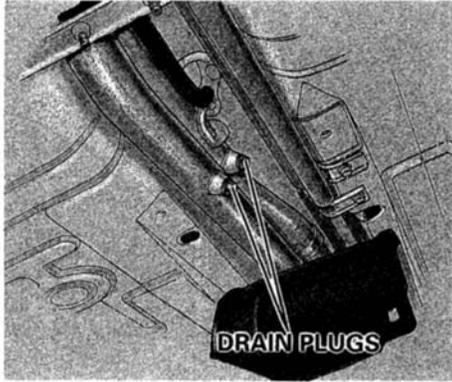
4. Remove the drain plug from the bottom of the radiator.



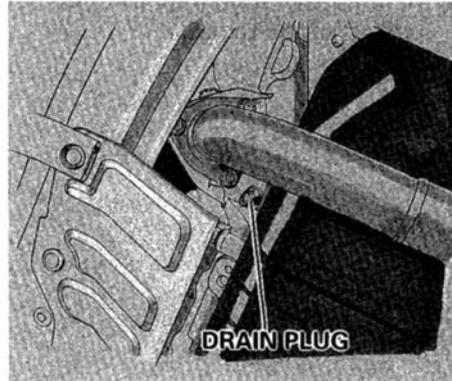
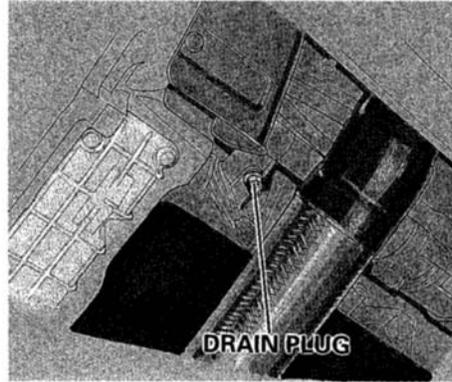
5. Loosen the bleeder plug on top of the radiator.

CONTINUED

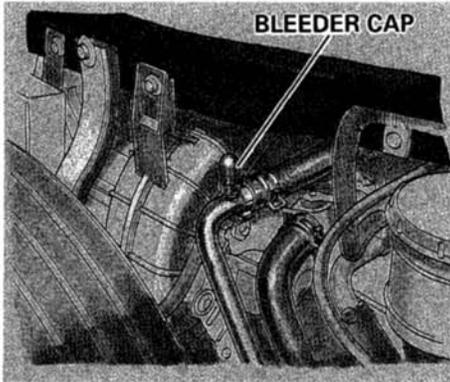
Cooling System



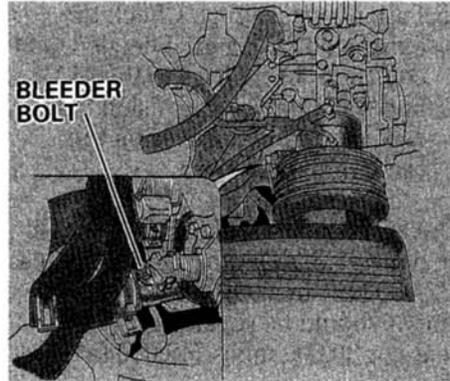
6. Remove the drain plugs from the coolant pipes under the car.



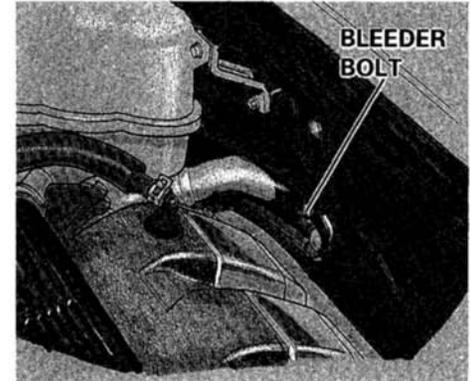
7. Loosen the drain plugs on the engine.
8. When the coolant stops draining, tighten the engine drain plugs, reinstall the plugs in the coolant pipes, and reinstall the radiator drain plug.
9. Mix the recommended antifreeze with an equal amount of purified or distilled water in a clean container.
The cooling system capacity is: 12.7 US qt (12.0 ℓ)



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



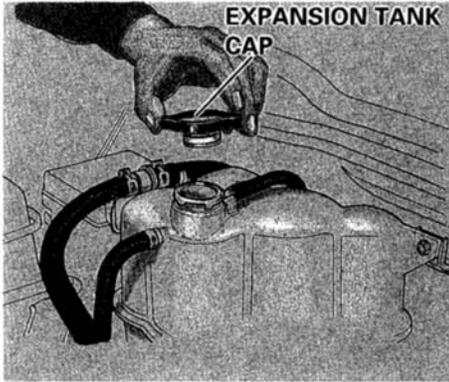
11. Loosen the bleeder bolt on top of the engine.



12. Loosen the bleeder bolt near the expansion tank.
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.

CONTINUED

Cooling System



14. Fill the expansion tank to about 1 inch 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).

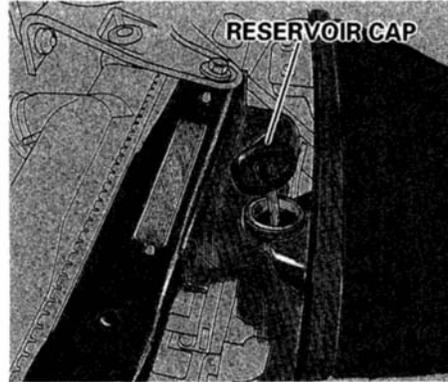
15. Turn off the engine. Check the expansion tank and, if needed, add coolant to bring it up to the MAX line. Tighten the expansion tank cap. Reinstall the cover on the car's underside.

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).

Windshield Washer

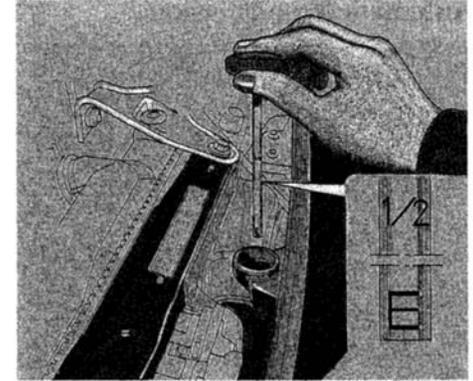
Check the level in the windshield washer reservoir at least monthly during normal usage. In bad weather, when you use the washers often, check the level every time you stop for gas.

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.

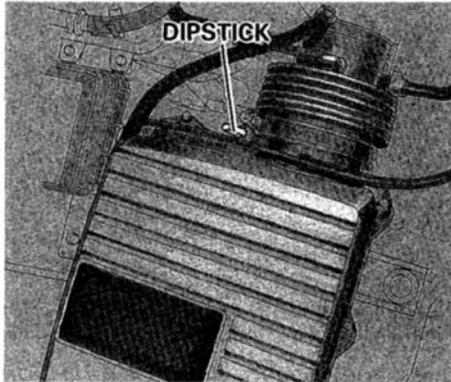


Use a good-quality windshield washer fluid. This increases the cleaning capability and prevents freezing in cold weather.

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.

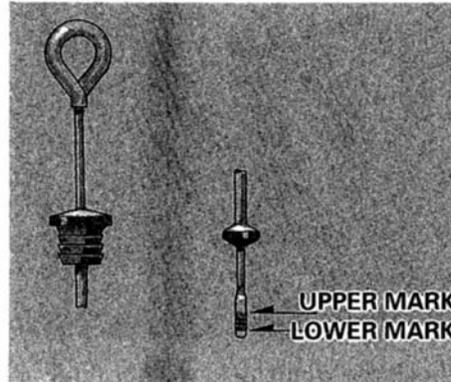
Transmission Oil

Automatic Transmission



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 from the transmission and wipe it off.
3. Insert the dipstick fully into its tube and pull it out again.



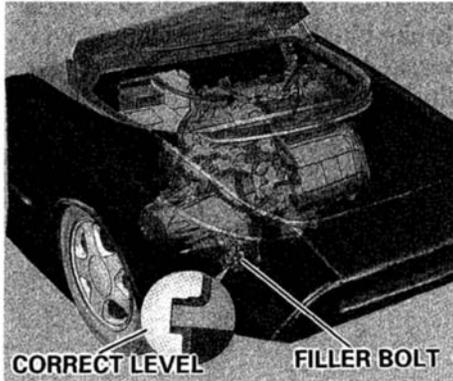
4. Check the fluid level. It should be between the upper and lower marks.

5. If the level is below the lower mark, add fluid to bring it to the upper mark. Use Honda Premium Formula Automatic Transmission Fluid or an equivalent DEXRON^(R) II Automatic Transmission Fluid (ATF) only.

6. Push the dipstick securely back into its tube.

The transmission should be drained and refilled with new fluid every 24 months or 30,000 miles (48,000 km), whichever comes first.

5-speed Transmission



Check the oil level a couple of minutes after shutting off the engine with the car sitting level. Remove the transmission filler bolt (located next to the left axle). The oil level should be up to the edge of the bolt hole. Feel inside the bolt hole with your finger. If you do not feel any oil, slowly add oil until it starts to run out of the hole. Reinstall the filler bolt and tighten it securely.

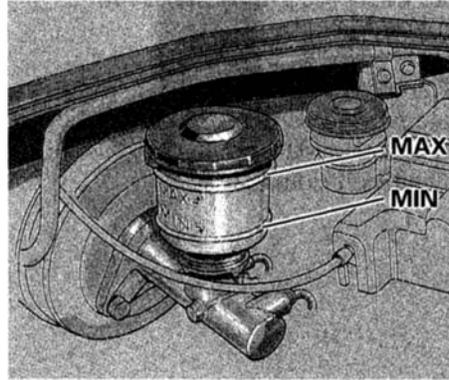
Only use an SF or SG grade motor oil, with a weight of 10W-30 or 10W-40.

The transmission should be drained and refilled with new oil every 24 months or 30,000 miles (48,000 km), whichever comes first.

Brake Fluid

Check the fluid level in the reservoirs monthly. There are three reservoirs: Brake system, Anti-lock brake system, and clutch (5-speed transmission only). The brake fluid of the brake and Anti-lock brake systems should be replaced every 2 years or 30,000 miles (48,000 km).

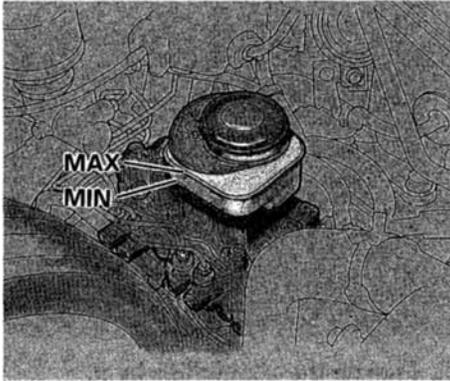
Brake System



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 is an indication that your brake system needs attention. Have the brake system inspected for leaks or worn brake pads.

If you add brake fluid to bring it up to the MAX mark, use Genuine Honda Brake Fluid or an equivalent that is marked DOT3 or DOT4 only. Brake fluid marked DOT5 is not compatible with your car's braking system.

Anti-lock Brake System

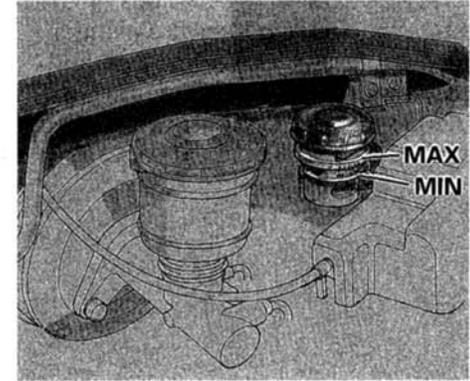


Check the fluid level in this reservoir after driving the car for at least a few minutes. It should be between the MIN and MAX marks on the side of the reservoir. If it is at or below the MIN mark, it may indicate a problem in the braking system. Have the dealer inspect your car.

If the fluid level is half an inch or more above the MAX mark, it may indicate a problem in the Anti-lock brake system. Have your dealer inspect the system as soon as possible.

If you add brake fluid to bring it up to the MAX mark, use the same DOT3 or DOT4 brake fluid specified for the brake system.

Clutch System



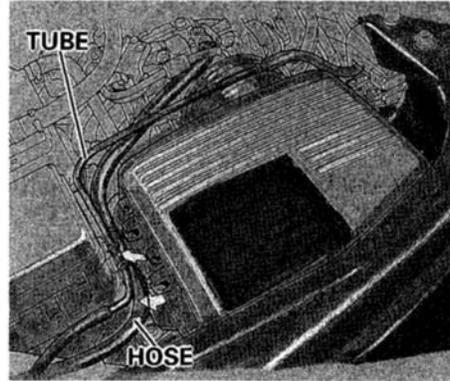
The fluid should be between the MIN and MAX marks on the side of the reservoir. If it is not, add brake fluid to bring it up to that level. Use the same DOT3 or DOT4 brake fluid specified for the brake system.

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

Air Cleaner

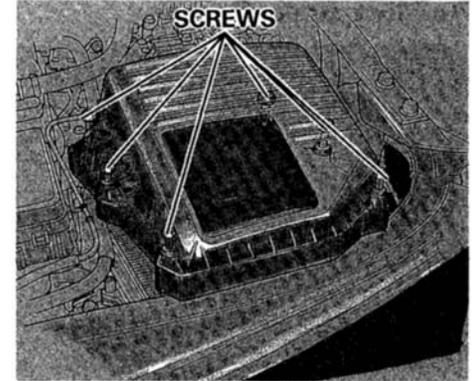
The air filter should be replaced every 2 years or 30,000 miles (48,000 km), whichever comes first. Under severe driving conditions, it should also be cleaned every 6 months or 7,500 miles (12,000 km), whichever comes first (see the next page).

Replacement

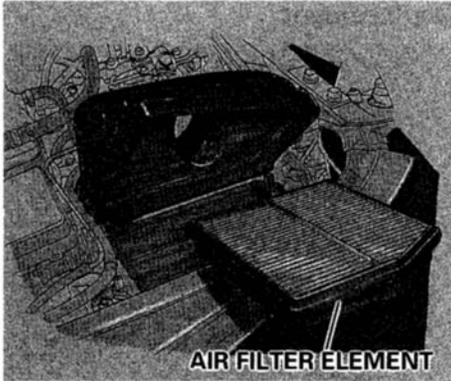


The air filter is inside the box on the driver's side of the engine compartment. To replace it:

1. Loosen the hose clamp around the engine air intake tube. Slide the tube off the cover.
2. Carefully unsnap the two hoses from their clips on the cover.



3. Loosen the six phillips-head screws around the edge of the cover. Remove the cover and set it aside.



4. Remove the old air filter element. Clean the element housing with a damp cloth.

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

Cleaning (Severe Conditions)

Follow the replacement procedure for removal and reinstallation.

Clean the air filter element by blowing compressed air through the side that faces up as installed in the car. If you do not have access to compressed air (such as a gas station), ask your Acura dealer to do this service.

Fuel Filter, Spark Plugs

Fuel Filter

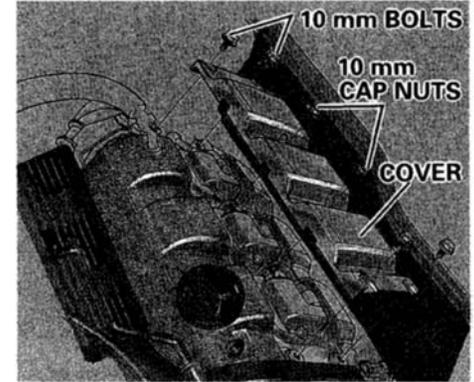
The fuel filter and system hoses should be replaced every 4 years or 60,000 miles (96,000 km), whichever comes first. Have a qualified technician change the fuel filter. Since the fuel system is under pressure, gasoline can spray out and create a hazard if the fuel line connections on the filter are 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

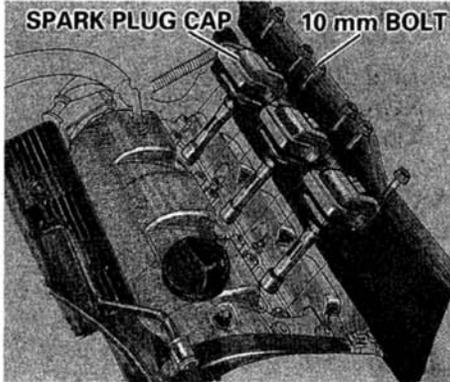
Worn spark plugs reduce your car's performance and fuel economy. They should be replaced every 6 years or 60,000 miles (96,000 km), whichever comes first.

Replacement

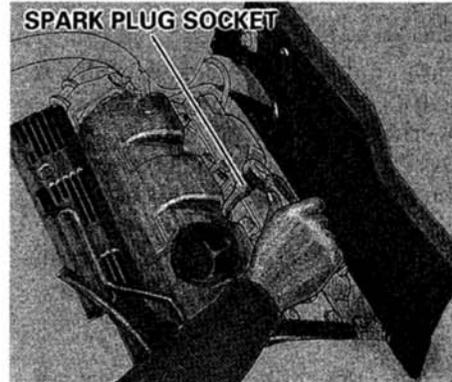


Replace the spark plugs one side at a time. Make sure the front cylinder spark plug caps and the backside of the cover have the letter "FR" on them and the rear cylinder spark plugs and the backside of the cover have "RR". To replace them:

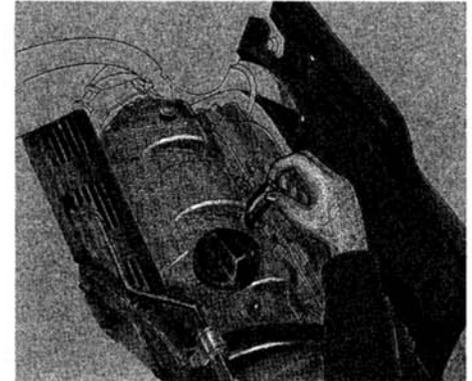
1. Remove the cover over the spark plugs by removing the four 10 mm bolts and the two 10 mm cap nuts.



2. Disconnect the three spark plug caps from the wire harness by squeezing the harness end of each connector and pulling.
3. Remove the two 10mm bolts holding the spark plug cap. Remove the spark plug cap by pulling it straight out as you twist it slightly.



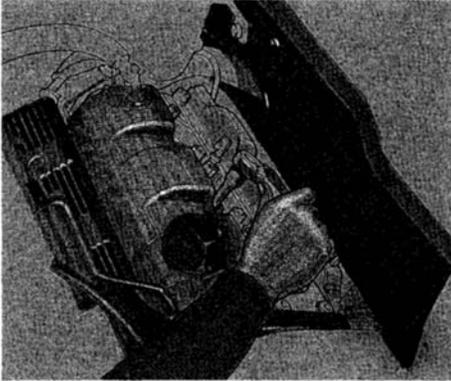
4. Use a 5/8 in. spark plug socket, with a 6 in. extension, to remove the spark plug.
5. Set the gap on the new spark plug to 0.040 in. (1.1 mm) with a wire-type spark plug gapping tool. Do not use a blade-type feeler gauge.



6. Put the new spark plug into the socket, then thread it into the hole. Screw it in by hand so you do not crossthread it.

CONTINUED

Spark Plugs



7. Torque the spark plug to 16 lb-ft (22 N.m). (If you do not have a torque wrench, tighten the spark plug one-quarter turn after it contacts the cylinder head.)

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.

8. Install the spark plug cap. Install and tighten the two hold-down bolts to 8.7 lb.ft (12 N.m).
9. Reconnect the spark plug cap to the wire harness.
10. After changing the three spark plugs on each side, reinstall the spark plug covers, bolts and nuts.

Tighten the bolts and nuts to 8.7 lb.ft (12 N.m).

Specifications:

Normal driving conditions

NGK:	PFR6G-11
Nippondenso:	PK20PR-L11

Hot climates, or continuous high speed driving

NGK:	PFR7G-11
Nippondenso:	PK22PR-L11

Check the condition of your car's battery monthly. You should check for proper electrolyte level and corrosion on the terminals. The battery is located in the front compartment behind the folding spare tire.

WARNING

The battery gives off explosive hydrogen gas during normal operation. A spark or open 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.

WARNING

The battery electrolyte contains sulfuric acid which can poison or burn you.

When checking the battery, wear protective clothing and a face shield to protect your eyes.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

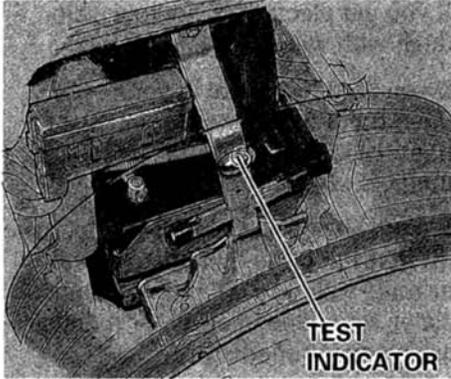
If you get electrolyte on your skin, flush with water.

If you get electrolyte in your eyes, flush them with water for at least 15 minutes and immediately call for medical assistance.

If someone swallows electrolyte, have them drink large quantities of water or milk, followed by milk of magnesia or vegetable oil. Call for medical assistance immediately.

CONTINUED

Battery



The electrolyte level should be between the two lines on the side of the battery. Low electrolyte level can be an indication of a problem with your car's charging system. Take the car to your dealer for service.

Look through the test indicator window on the battery and check the indicator:

Blue-Good condition
Red-Add distilled water
White-Charging necessary

If the indicator is red or white:
Remove the battery from its mount.

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 charge the battery after storing the car, make sure you do it outside the car. Do not connect a battery charger to the jump start terminal in the engine compartment fuse box.

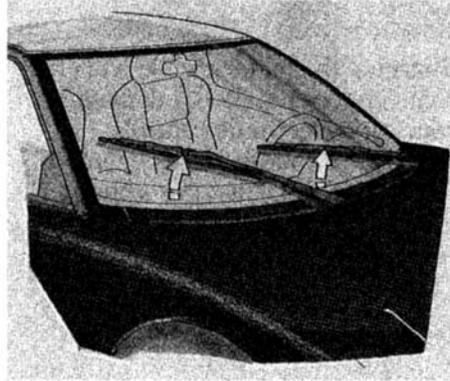
Disconnect the terminals to prevent damage to the car's electrical system, and remove the battery from the front compartment so hydrogen gas does not build up during charging. You need to remove the spare tire holder before removing the battery.

NOTICE

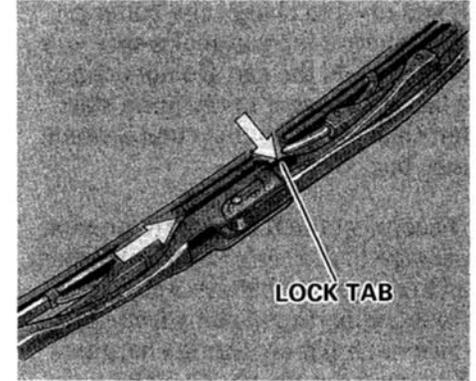
Charging the battery while it is connected can seriously damage your car's electronic controls. Detach the battery cables before connecting the battery to a charger.

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:

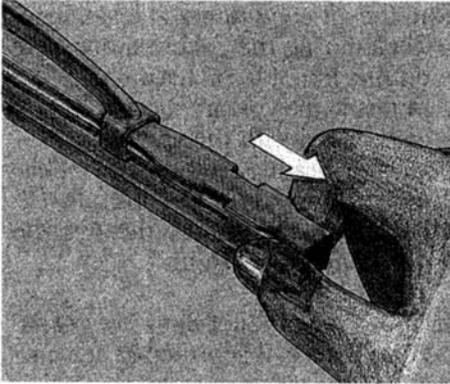


1. Turn the ignition switch ON. Turn on the windshield wipers. Turn off the ignition switch to stop the wipers about a foot above their park position.
2. Lift the wiper off the windshield.

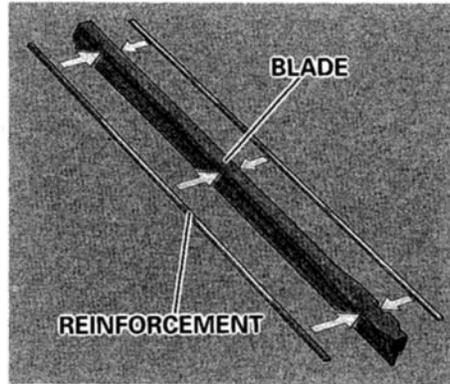


3. Disconnect the blade assembly from the wiper arm by pushing in the lock tab. Hold it in while you push the blade assembly toward the base of the arm. Gently lower the wiper arm against the windshield.

Windshield Wipers



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

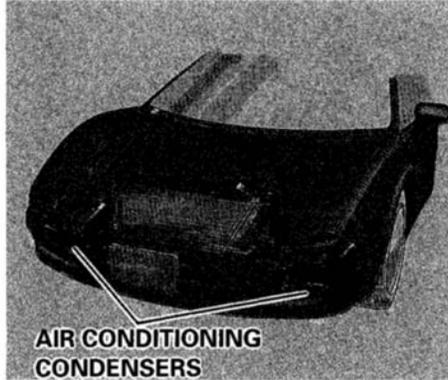


5. Examine the new wiper blades. If they have no plastic or metal reinforcement along the back edge, remove the metal reinforcement strips from the old wiper blade and install them in the slots along the edge of the new blade.

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

Air Conditioner

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



Periodically check the engine's radiator and air conditioning condensers (located in the openings below the parking lights) 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

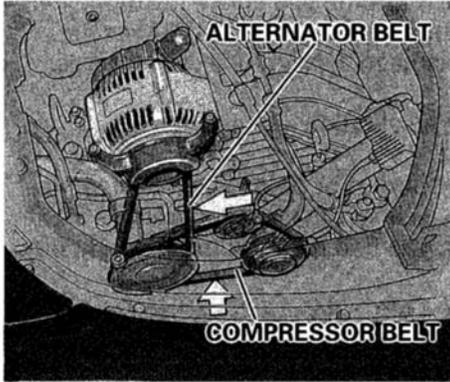
The condenser and radiator fins bend easily. Only use a low-pressure spray or soft-bristle brush to clean them.

Run the air conditioner 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, through the air conditioning system.

If the air conditioner does not get as cold as before, it is probably because some of the refrigerant has leaked from the system. Have your dealer check the system for leaks and recharge the system with 33.5-35 oz. (950-1000 g) of Refrigerant 12 (R-12).

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.

Engine Belts



You should check the condition of the two engine belts every six months. Examine the edges of each belt for cracks or fraying. Check the tension of each belt by pushing on it at the point shown in the diagram.

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

Alternator belt:

one-half in. (12-14 mm)

Compressor belt:

seven-sixteenths in. (10-12 mm)

If you see signs of wear or looseness, have your dealer adjust or replace the belts. Your dealer will check these belts as part of the normal scheduled maintenance.

Tires

Check the inflation and condition of your car's tires at least once a month.

Inflation

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 one mile. If you check the pressure when the tires are hot (the car has been driven several miles), you will see readings 4 to 6 lb/in² higher than the cold reading. This is normal. Do not let air out to match the specified cold pressure. The tire will be underinflated.

CONTINUED

Tires

The correct cold tire pressures are:

Front — 33 psi (230 kPa)

Rear — 40 psi (275 kPa)



These pressures are also given on the tire information label on the jamb of the driver's door. Use the pressure gauge that came with your car every time you check the tires. That makes it easier for you to tell if a pressure loss is due to a tire problem and not a variation between gauges.

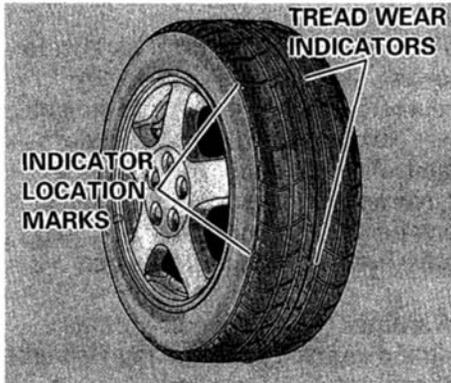
Keeping the tires properly inflated provides you with the best combination of riding comfort, handling and tread life. Underinflated tires wear unevenly, reduce your car's handling, and are more likely to fail because of higher temperatures. Overinflated tires make your car ride more harshly, are more prone to damage from road hazards, and wear unevenly.

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.



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 wide band running across the tread. This shows there is less than 1/16 inch 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.

Maintenance

In addition to proper inflation, correct wheel alignment helps to decrease tire wear. You should get your car's wheel alignment checked every 12 months or 12,000 miles.

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. If you have a good tire removed from the wheel and later mounted, you should always have it rebalanced.

Make sure the installer balances the wheels when you have new tires installed. This increases riding comfort and tire life.

NOTICE

Improper wheel weights can damage your car's aluminum wheels. Use only genuine NSX wheel weights for balancing.

Tire Rotation

You should not rotate your NSX's tires. The front wheels are 15" diameter and the rear wheels are 16" 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.

Replacing Tires

The tires that came with your Acura were selected to match the performance capabilities of the car and provide the best combination of handling and ride comfort. If a tire becomes damaged, you should replace it, not repair it. A repaired tire will have lower performance limits. You should replace tires with radial tires of the same size, load range, and speed rating as the original tires. Mixing radial and bias-ply or bias-belted tires on your car can reduce its braking ability, traction, and steering accuracy.

CONTINUED

Tires

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.

If you ever need to replace a wheel, make sure you use the same aluminum alloy wheel that originally came on your NSX. Replacement wheels are available at your Acura dealer.

Wheels and Tires

Wheel Sizes:

Front — 15 x 6 1/2 JJ

Rear — 16 x 8 JJ

Tire Sizes:

Front — 205/50ZR15

Rear — 225/50ZR16

DOT Tire Quality Grading

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 grades assigned are 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 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 tire temperature grade is established for a tire that is properly inflated and not overloaded. Excessive speed, underinflation, or excessive loading, either separately or in combination, can cause heat buildup and possible tire failure.

Winter Tires

You should mount winter tires on your NSX before winter starts (before consistent sub-freezing temperatures). Change back to "summer" tires after winter weather has stopped.

Use winter tires on all four wheels. The performance capabilities of the winter tires may not be the same as your car's original-equipment tires. Check with the tire dealer for maximum speed recommendations.

The winter tire sizes are:
205/50R15 (front)
225/50R16 (rear)

Tire Chains

Use snow chains only in an emergency or when they are legally required for driving through a certain area. 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.

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
- Tail lights
- Brake lights
- Turn signals
- Back-up lights
- Hazard light function
- License plate light
- Side marker lights

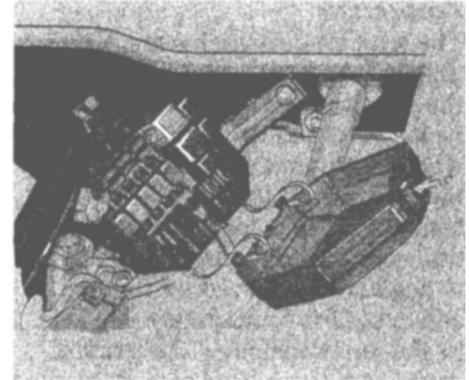
If you find any bulbs are burned out, replace them as soon as possible. Refer to the chart on page [209](#) to determine what type of replacement bulb is needed.

Replacing a Headlight Bulb

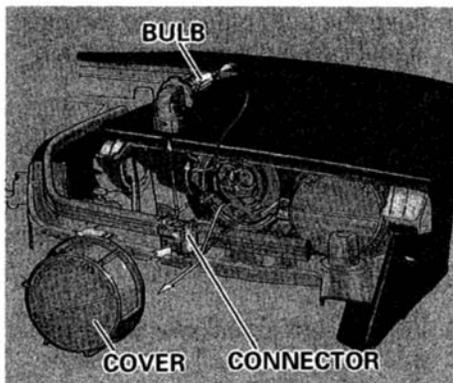
Your car has two bulbs on each side, four in total. Make sure you are replacing the bulb that is burned out. Your car uses halogen headlight bulbs. When replacing a bulb, handle it by its plastic case and protect the glass from contact with your skin or hard objects. If you touch the glass, clean it 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.

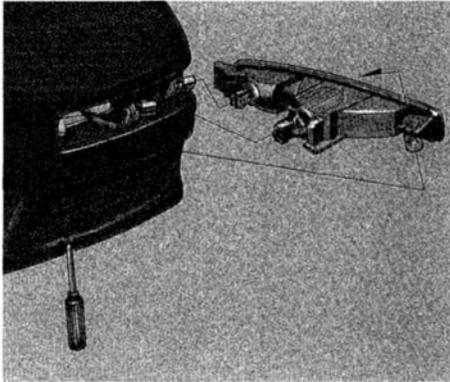


3. Remove the cover from the back of the burned-out bulb by turning it counterclockwise.
4. Remove the electrical connector from the bulb by grasping it between your thumb and fingers and pushing downward while you wiggle it slightly. Make sure you pull on the connector, not the wires.
5. Unclip the end of the hold-down wire from its slot. Pivot the wire up out of the way and remove the bulb.
6. Insert the new bulb into the hole, making sure all the tabs are in place. Pivot the hold-down wire over the end of the bulb and clip the end back into the slot.
7. Push the electrical connector back onto the bulb. Make sure it is on all the way.
8. Replace the bulb cover. Line up the three tabs, push the cover in, and turn it clockwise until it locks.
9. Reinstall the headlight motor fuse.
10. Test the headlights.

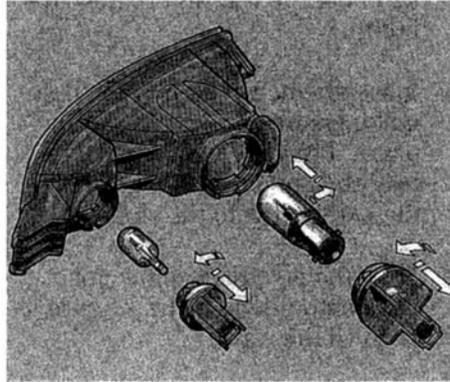
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Lights

Replacing a Front Turn Signal or Parking Light Bulb



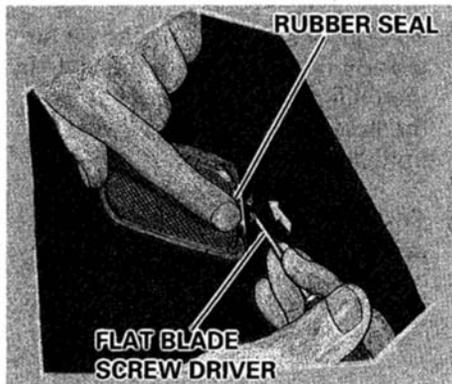
1. Use a phillips-head screwdriver to remove the turn signal assembly's mounting screw.
2. Remove the turn signal assembly from the bumper. Remove the electrical connector from the bulb holder by squeezing the connector and pulling.



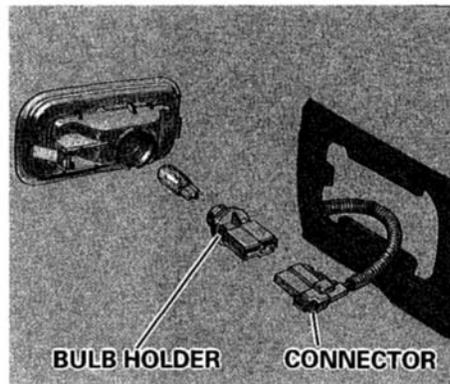
3. Remove the bulb holder from the turn signal assembly by turning it one-quarter turn to the left.
4. Remove the burned out bulb from the socket. Install the new bulb.

5. Push the bulb holder into the turn signal assembly and turn it clockwise until it locks.
6. Reconnect the electrical connector to the bulb holder.
7. Test the turn signals to make sure the new bulb is working.
8. 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.



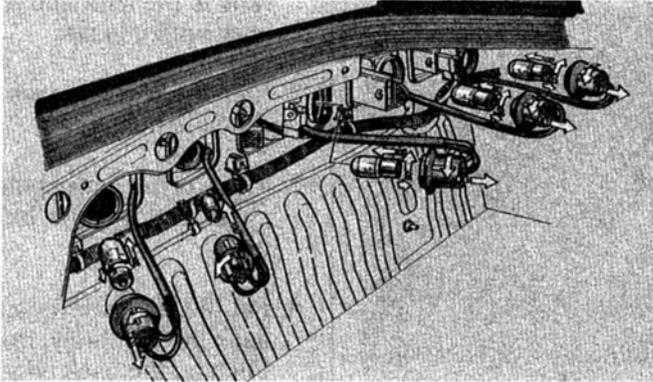
3. Remove the electrical connector from the bulb holder by squeezing the connector and pulling them apart.
4. Turn the bulb holder one-quarter turn counterclockwise to remove it from the lens.
5. Pull the bulb straight out of its socket. Push the new bulb straight into the socket until it bottoms.

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.

CONTINUED

Lights

Replacing Bulbs in the Rear



The bulbs for the taillights, brake lights rear, turn signals, and back-up lights are reached by pulling down the rear trunk liner.

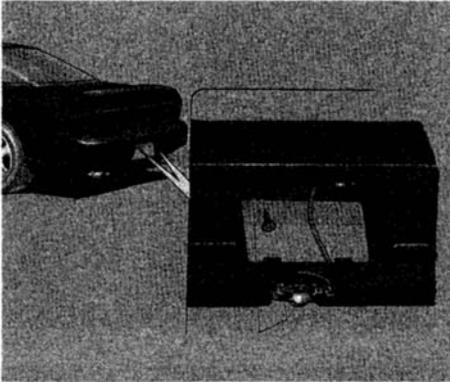
1. Determine which bulb in the taillight assembly is burned out.

2. Remove the socket from the taillight assembly by turning it one-quarter turn counterclockwise and pulling it outward.

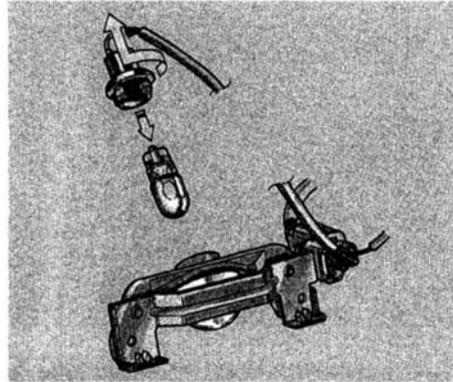
3. Remove the bulb by turning it one-quarter turn to the left and pulling it out of the socket.

4. Install the new bulb in the socket.
5. 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.
6. Test the lights to make sure the new bulb is working.

Replacing the Rear license Bulb



1. Use a phillips-head screwdriver to remove the two outer screws holding the license plate light assembly to the bumper bracket. Pull the assembly away from the bracket.



2. Remove the socket from the light assembly by turning it one-half turn to the right.
3. Pull the bulb out of the socket.

4. Install the new bulb.

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.

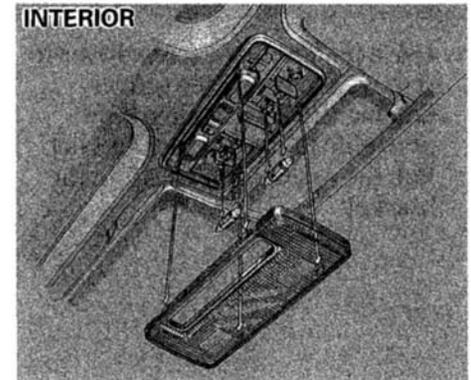
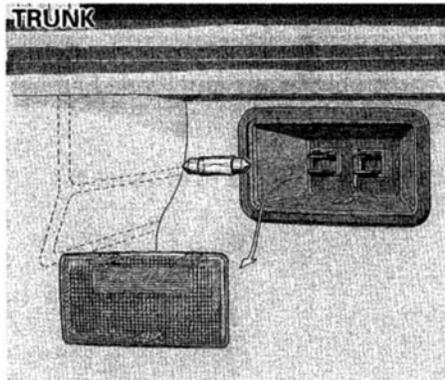
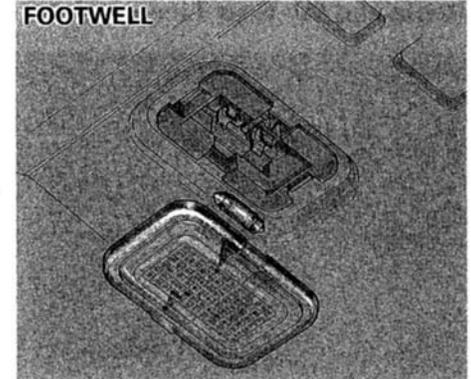
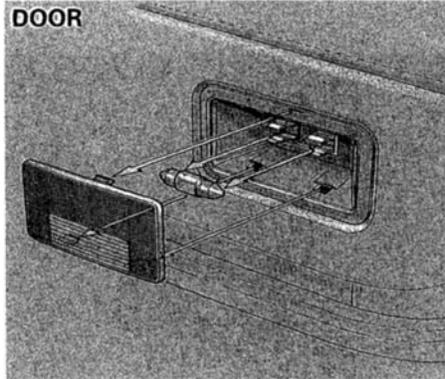
CONTINUED

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.

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.
2. Remove the bulb by pulling it straight out of its metal tabs.
3. Push the new bulb into the metal tabs. Snap the lens back in place.



If you need to park your car for an extended period (more than 1 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. It is best to store your car dry indoors if at all possible.

- Fill the gas tank.
- Change oil and filter.
- Dry the interior and the exterior completely, if the car is to be washed or cleaned before storage.
- Clean the interior. Make sure the carpeting, floor mats, etc. are completely dry.
- Leave the parking brake off. Put the transmission in Reverse (5-speed) or Park (automatic).

- 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.
- 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 only the inspections called for in the 24 months/30,000 miles maintenance schedule as soon as you take it out of storage (see page 121). The replacements called for in the maintenance schedule are not needed unless the car has actually reached that time or mileage.

Frequent cleaning and polishing of your NSX helps to keep it "new" looking. This section gives you hints on how to clean and preserve your car's 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.

NOTICE

Chemical solvents and strong cleaners can damage the paint, metal and plastic on your car. Only use the solvents and cleaners recommended in this Owner's Manual.

- Rinse the car thoroughly with cool water to remove loose dirt.
- Fill a bucket with cool water. Mix in a mild detergent, such as dish-washing 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 [170](#)).

Waxing

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 NSX 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 NSX 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.

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.

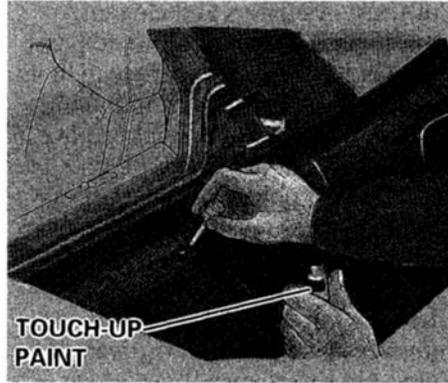
The wheels have a protective clear-coat that keeps the aluminum from corroding and tarnishing. Using harsh chemicals, including some commercial wheel cleaners, or stiff brushes can damage this clear-coat. Only use a mild detergent and soft brush or sponge to clean the wheels.

CONTINUED

Exterior Care

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 door jamb. 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 for chipped or scratched paint every time you wash it. Repair it as soon as possible to prevent corrosion. Use the touch-up paint on small chips and scratches. More extensive damage should be repaired by a professional.

Examine the chip or scratch closely before repairing it. If it does not go down to bare metal, clean it with soap and water and apply the touch-up paint. If it does go to the metal, apply a coat of primer first. After this dries, apply the touch-up paint. Build up the paint in the damaged area to the level of the surrounding paint. Several thin coats of paint are better than one thick coat.

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.

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.

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 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 floorpanels 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 anti-lock brake system sensors and wiring at each wheel.
 - Have the corrosion-preventive coatings on the underside of your car inspected and repaired periodically.

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. Some companies make parts that seem to duplicate the original Acura body parts, but are inferior in fit, finish, and quality. In our experience, these parts do not fit as well and do not have as high a level of corrosion resistance.

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.

Taking Care of the Unexpected

Things sometimes go wrong. This section can help you with ideas on where to look and what to do if you have a problem with your car. With this information, you may be able to get going again. If not, you will also find instructions on getting your car towed.

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If You Have A Flat Tire

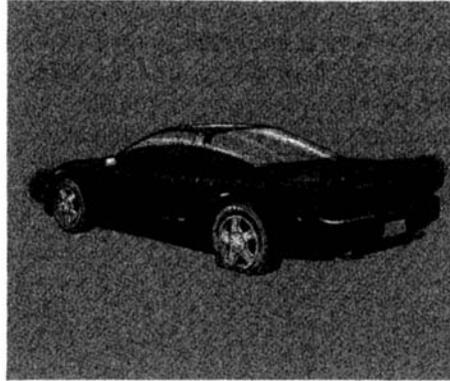
If you have a flat tire while driving, stop in a safe place to change it. Stopping in traffic or on the shoulder of a busy road is dangerous. Drive slowly along the shoulder until you get to an exit or an area to stop that is far away from the traffic lanes.

WARNING

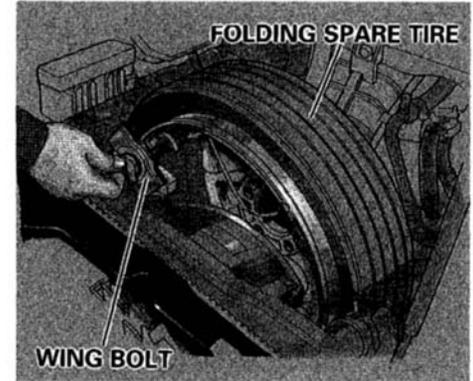
The car can easily roll off the jack, seriously injuring anyone underneath.

Follow the directions for changing a tire exactly, and never get under the car when it is supported only by the jack.

Changing A Flat Tire



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 (5-speed). Set the parking brake.

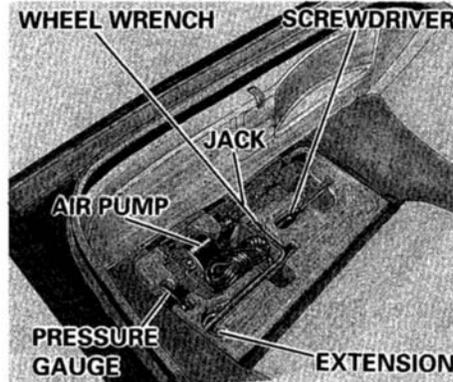


3. Open the hood (see page 97). Unscrew the wing bolt holding the folding spare tire. Remove the folding spare tire from the compartment. The wing bolt and wheel may be very warm from the air passing through the radiator. Use a cloth or gloves (not provided) to protect your hands when removing the spare tire.

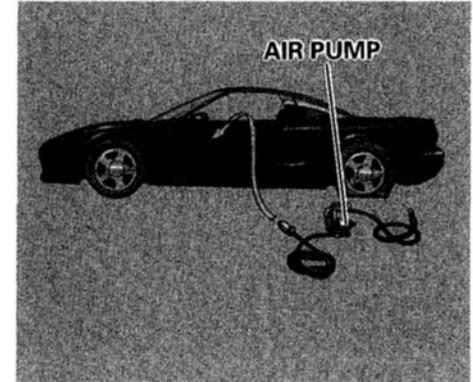
If You Have A Flat Tire

⚠ CAUTION

The radiator's electric fan runs automatically, even with the ignition off. Keep your hands and arms away from this fan when removing the spare tire.



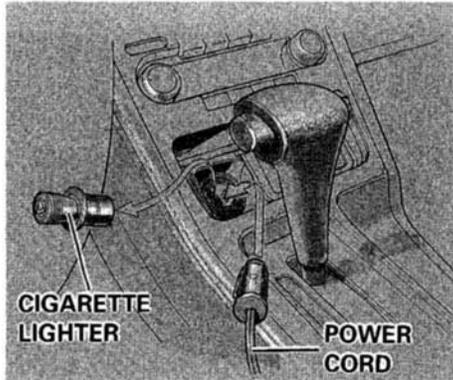
4. Open the trunk (see page 42). Lift the cover; remove the jack, wheel wrench, extension, air pump, pressure gauge and screwdriver from the trunk. The tools may become very hot while the car is being driven. Wear gloves or use a protective cloth when handling the tools.



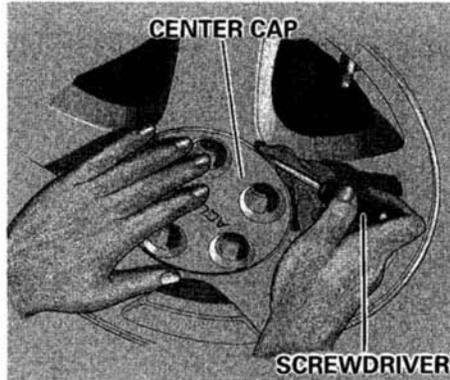
5. Place the air pump near the flat tire. Open the nearest window, and route the air pump's power cord through the open window.

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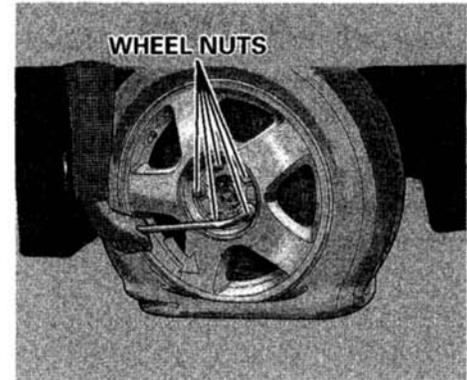
If You Have A Flat Tire



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).

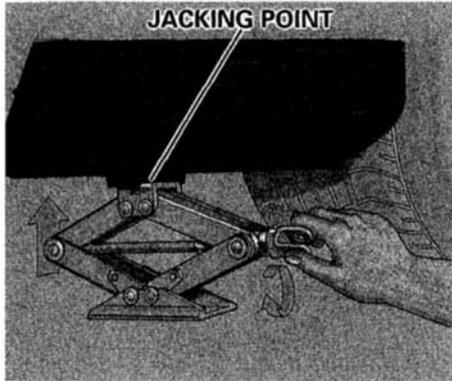


7. Remove the center cap from the wheel with the screwdriver. Use a cloth as shown to protect the cap and wheel.



8. Loosen the five wheel nuts 1/2 turn with the wheel wrench.

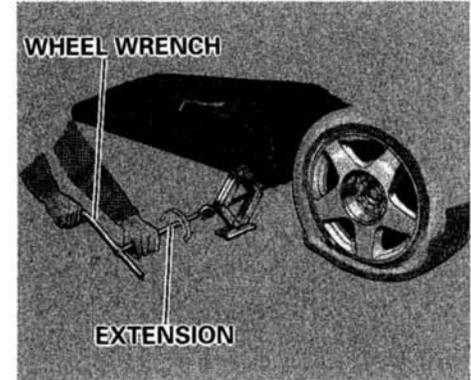
If You Have A Flat Tire



9. Locate the jacking point nearest the wheel you are removing by finding the arrow on the side of the body. Place the jack under the jacking point, then raise it by hand by turning the end bracket clockwise. Make sure the top of the jack fits exactly into the jacking point.

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.



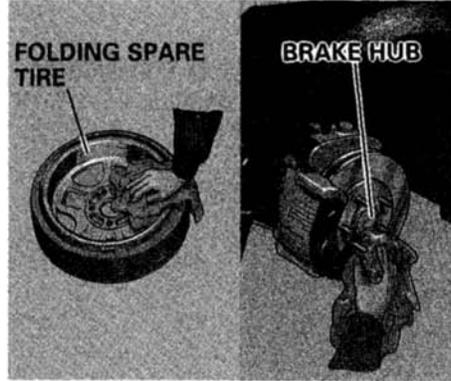
10. Use the extension and wheel wrench as shown to raise the car until the flat tire is off the ground.

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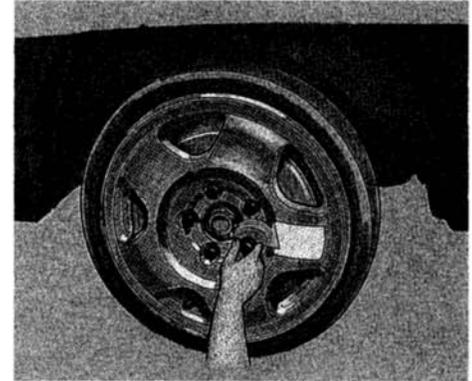
If You Have A Flat Tire



11. Remove the wheel nuts and flat tire.

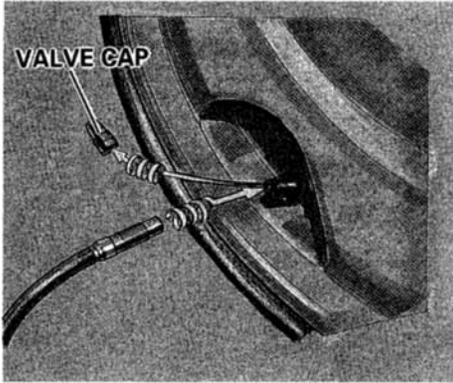


12. Before you put on the folding spare tire, wipe any dirt off the mounting surface of the brake hub and the wheel. This will assure a tight, even contact between the wheel and hub.

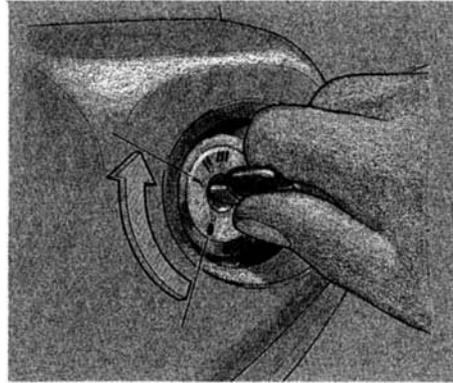


13. Put on the folding spare tire with the air valve toward the bottom. Put the wheel nuts back on finger-tight, then tighten them in a criss-cross pattern with the wheel wrench so the wheel is firmly against the hub. Do not try to tighten them fully. Inflate the folding spare tire only when it is on 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.

If You Have A Flat Tire



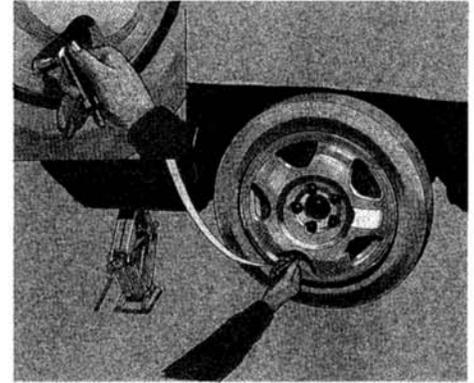
14. Unscrew the valve cap from the folding spare tire's air valve by turning it counterclockwise. Then screw on the air pump hose.



15. 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.



16. After about five minutes, unscrew the air pump hose and check the pressure with the supplied pressure gauge.

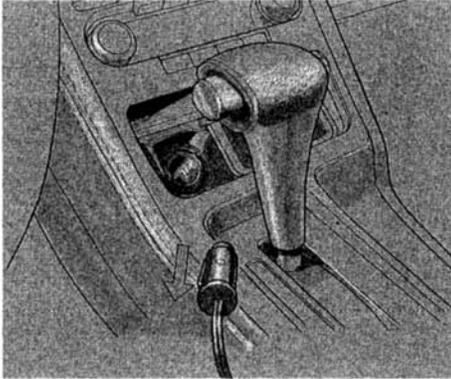
Inflate to:

Front — 26 psi (1.8 kg/cm², 180 kPa)

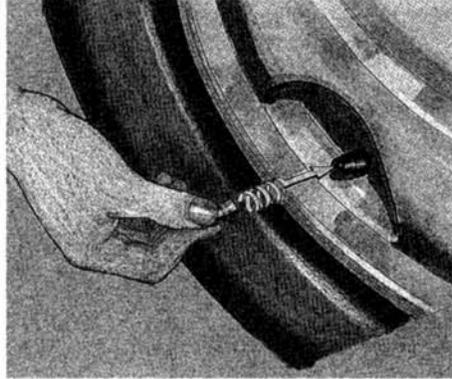
Rear — 32 psi (2.2 kg/cm², 220 kPa)

CONTINUED

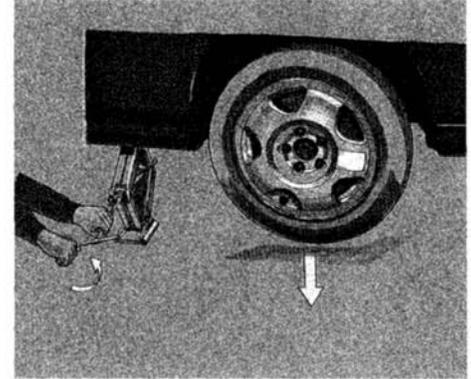
If You Have A Flat Tire



17. When finished, reach in and turn the ignition switch to Lock (0). Unplug the air pump power cord.

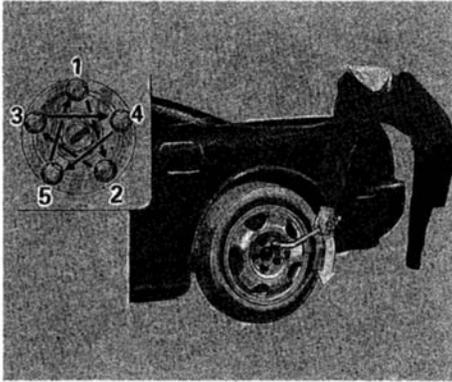


18. Screw the valve cap on the valve tightly with your hands.

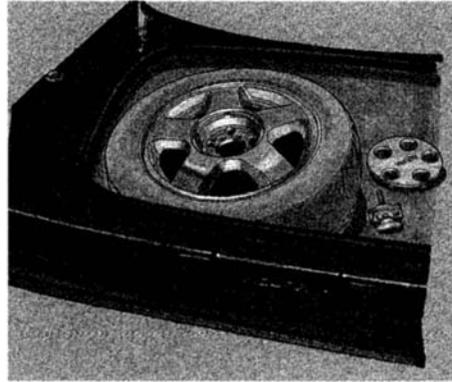


19. Lower the car to the ground and remove the jack.

If You Have A Flat Tire



20. 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:
80 lb. ft (108 N.m)



21. Store the jack, wheel wrench, extension, air pump, pressure gauge, screwdriver and flat tire in the trunk. Temporarily keep the wing bolt and center cap in the trunk as well. See **Replacing Tires** on page 155 for tire replacement.

Storing the Folding Spare Tire

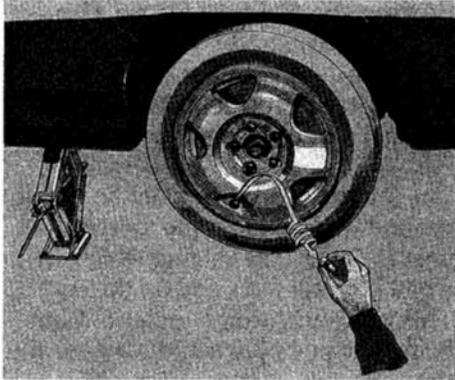
Before returning the folding spare tire to its compartment, you must let out all the air. It will fold back to its original space saving shape.

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.

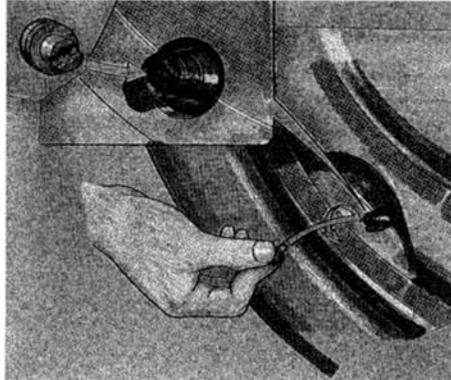
1. If the folding spare tire is still on the car, follow the instructions under **Changing A Flat Tire** to loosen the wheel nuts and jack up the car.

CONTINUED

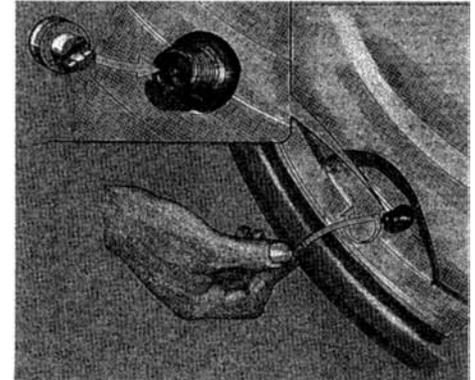
If You Have A Flat Tire



2. Unscrew and remove the folding spare tire valve cap.

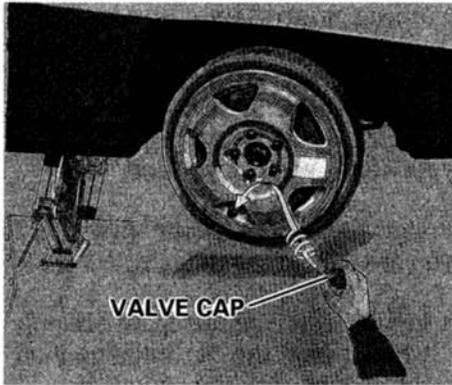


3. Remove the rubber cover on top of the valve cap. Use the notch on the valve cap to unscrew the spare tire valve core until the air starts coming out.

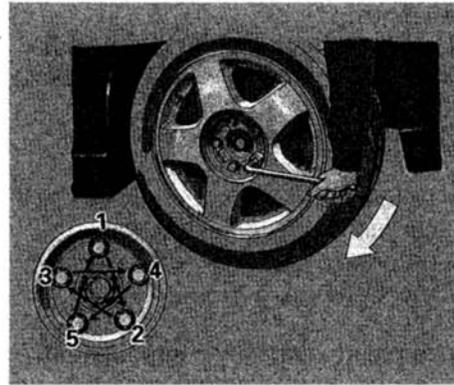


4. As the tire deflates, it will fold back to its original shape. When the air stops coming out of the tire, use the notch on the valve cap to tighten the valve core.

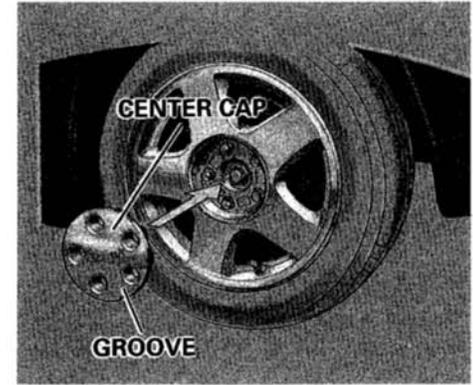
If You Have A Flat Tire



5. Put the rubber cap back on the valve cap. Screw the valve cap back on the folding spare tire valve.



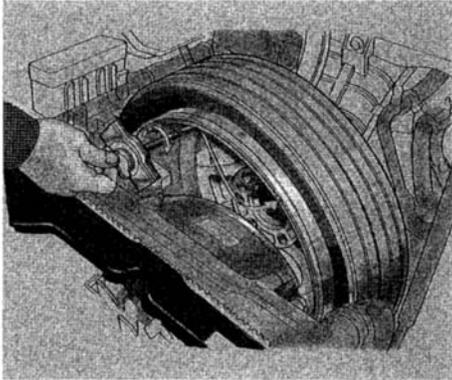
6. Remove the folding spare tire and install the original tire and wheel nuts. Lower the car and tighten the wheel nuts securely in a criss-cross pattern. Tighten to:
80 lb. ft (108 N.m)



7. Install the center cap with the groove closest to the valve.

CONTINUED

If You Have A Flat Tire



8. 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 12V 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

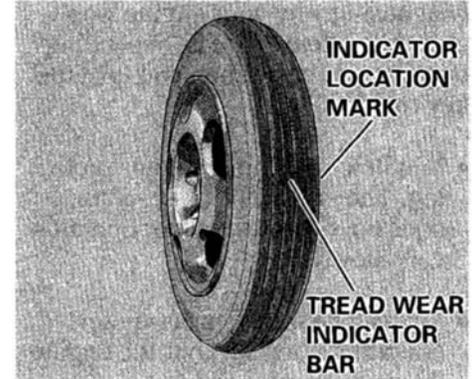
Your car comes with a folding spare tire. Use this spare tire as a temporary replacement only. Get your regular tire replaced and put back on your car as soon as you can.

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.

If You Have 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 can not 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.



The folding spare tire has a shorter tread 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.

If Your Engine Won't Start

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, 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:

- Check the transmission interlock. If you have a 5-speed, the clutch pedal must be pushed all the way to the floor or the START circuit is locked out. 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 [189](#).

- If the voltmeter reads normally and the headlights are bright, turn the key to START (III) then release it.

If the headlights do not dim, check the condition of the fuses (see page [197](#)). 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 [202](#).)

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 [147](#)). You can then try jump starting the car from a booster battery (see page [187](#)).

If Your Engine Won't Start, Jump Starting

The Starter Operates Normally

In this case, the starter motor sounds normal when you turn the key to START, but the engine does not run.

- Are you using the proper starting procedure? Refer to **Starting the Engine** on page 105.
- Do you have gas? Turn the ignition switch to ON 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 197).

If you find nothing wrong, get the problem looked at by a qualified technician. See **Towing** on page 202.

Jump Starting

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, there are several precautions you should take. Follow the directions closely.

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 NSX with an automatic transmission by pushing or pulling it.

To jump start your car:

1. Check the physical condition of the battery (see page 147). If the electrolyte seems slushy or like ice, do not try jump starting until it thaws.

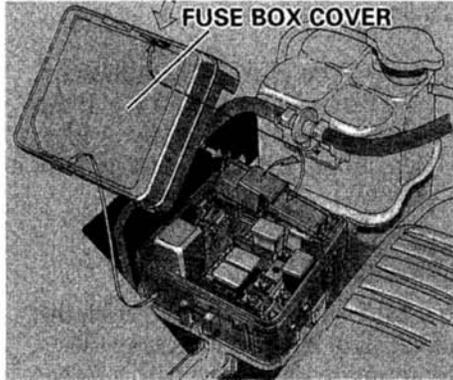
NOTICE

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 or explode.

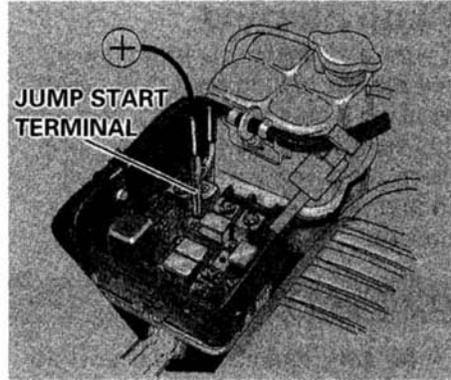
2. Turn off all the electrical accessories: climate control, stereo system, lights, etc. Put the transmission in Neutral or Park and set the parking brake.

CONTINUED

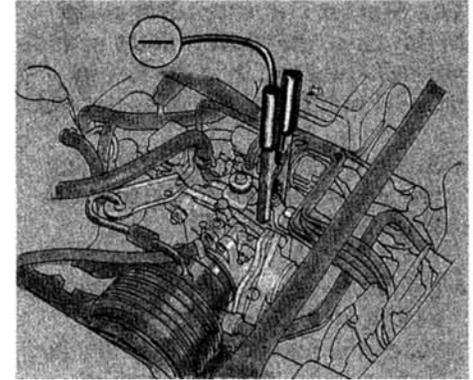
Jump Starting



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.

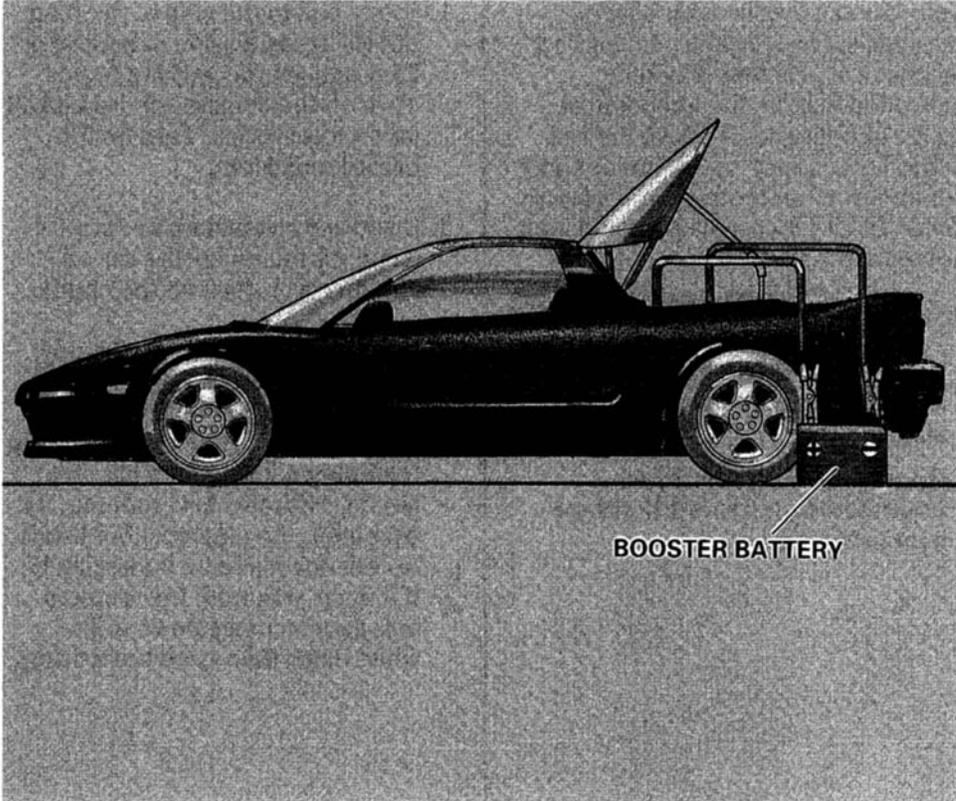


4. Connect one jumper cable to the positive (+) terminal on the booster battery. Connect the other end to the JUMP START terminal in the fuse box.



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.

Jump Starting



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 it still cranks 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 midrange under most conditions. It may go slightly high if you are driving up a long steep hill on a very hot day. If it climbs to the red mark, you should stop and 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 or engine compartment 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 indicators.
2. If you see steam and/or spray coming from under the car or engine cover, 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 white mark then continue driving.

If Your Engine Overheats

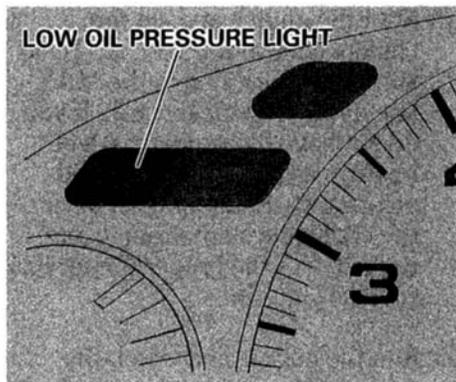
4. If the temperature gauge stays at the red mark, turn off the engine.
5. Wait until any signs of steam or spray go away, then open the front hood and engine cover.
6. Look for any obvious coolant leaks, such as a split radiator hose. Everything is still extremely hot, so use caution. If you find a leak, it must be repaired before you continue driving. See **Towing** on page 202.
7. If you don't find an obvious leak, check the coolant level in the expansion tank (see page 131).
8. If the expansion tank needs coolant, you will have to remove the cap. Before doing that, turn the ignition switch ON and check the temperature gauge. Remove the expansion tank cap **ONLY** if the temperature gauge pointer has come down to normal or below the red mark 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.
10. Start the engine and set the climate control to FULL AUTO at 90°. 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. Run the engine and watch the temperature gauge. If it goes back to the red mark, the engine needs repair. (See **TOWING** on page 202).
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.

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.

Low Oil Pressure



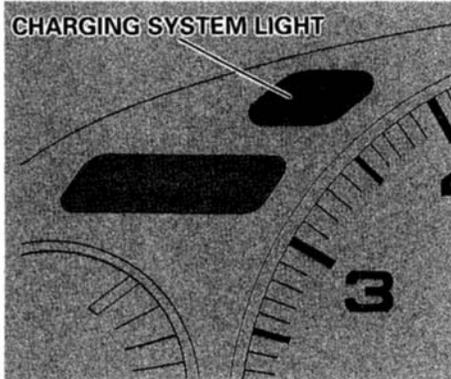
The oil pressure warning light should never come on when the engine is running. If this warning light comes on with the engine running, take immediate action.

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.
2. Let the car sit for a minute. Open the engine compartment and check the oil level (see page [95](#)). 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 maneuvers.
3. If necessary, add oil to bring the level back to the full mark on the dipstick. (see page [127](#))
4. Start the engine and watch the oil pressure light. 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 [202](#).)

Charging System Indication



The charging system light should go out after the engine starts. If it comes on brightly with the engine running, the alternator is no longer charging the battery.

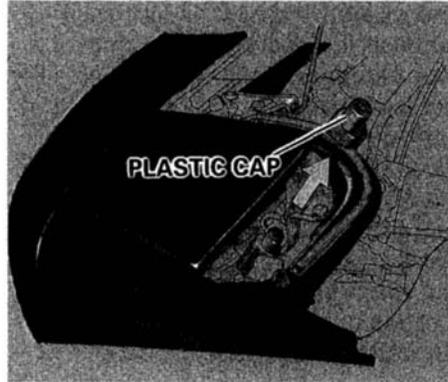
Immediately turn off all electrical accessories: radio, climate control, rear defogger, cruise control, etc. Try not to use other electrically-operated controls such as the power windows. Keep the engine running and take extra care to not stall it. The starter motor uses lots of current and will discharge 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 run the engine. Drive to a service station or garage where you can get technical assistance.

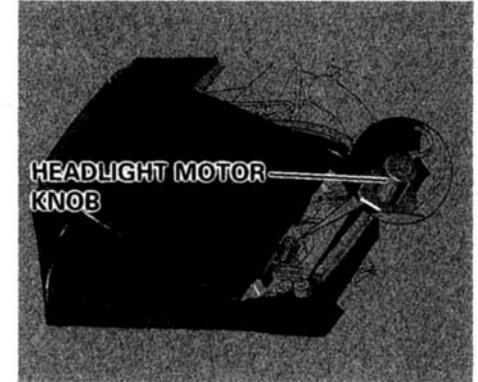
Getting The Headlights To Pop Up

If both headlights don't pop up when you turn them on, try the headlight motor button on the dashboard (see page 31). 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 197). 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.

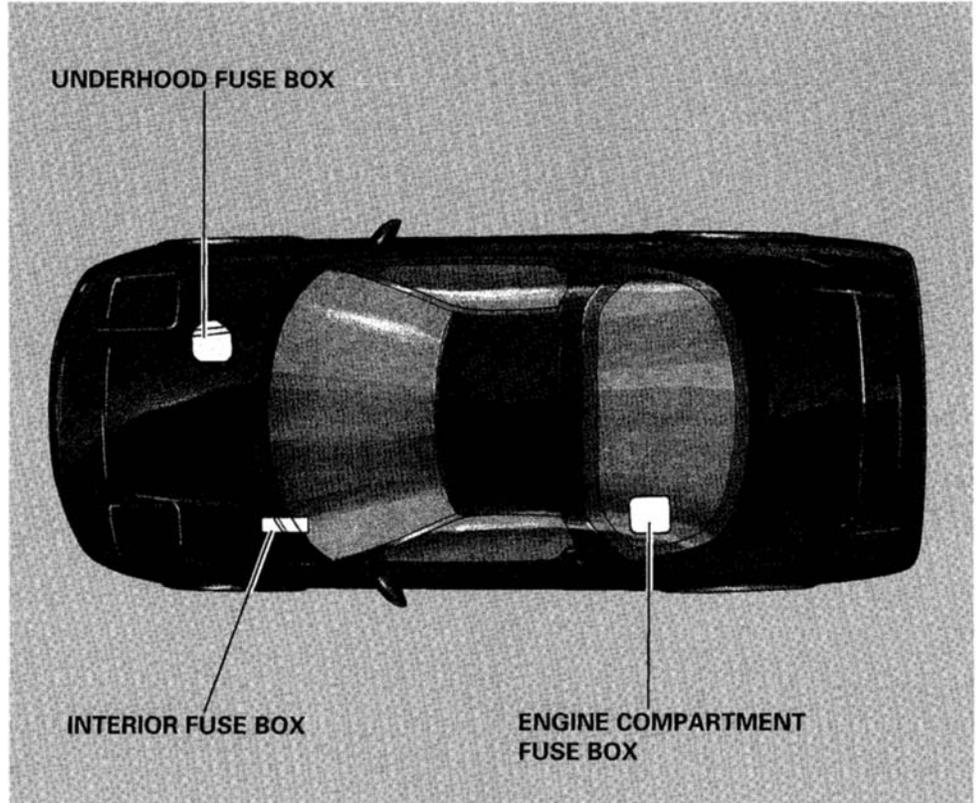


3. Remove the plastic cap on top of the headlight motor.

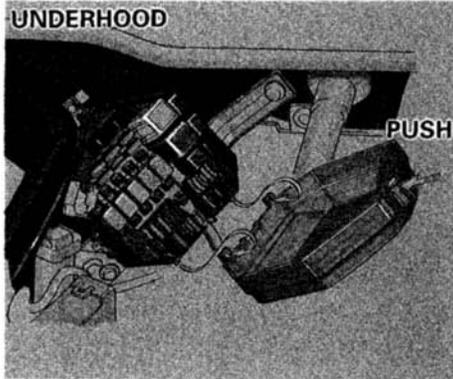


4. Turn the headlight motor knob clockwise. The headlight door will start to rise. Keep turning until the door is fully open.
5. Put the plastic cap back on the headlight motor with the arrow facing forward. Do not replace the headlight motor fuse until you can have the car checked by the dealer.

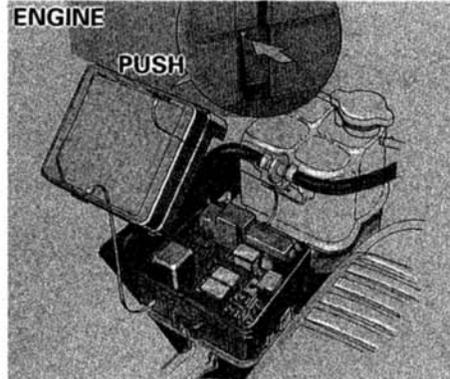
All the electrical circuits in your car have fuses to protect them from a short circuit or overload. These fuses are located in three fuse boxes.



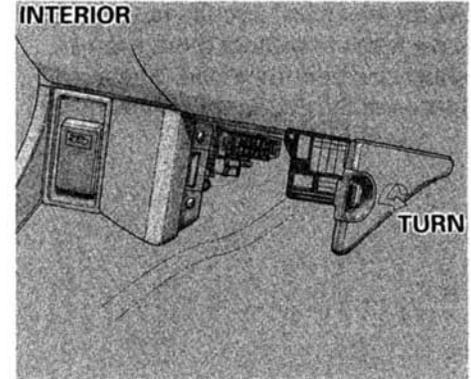
Fuses



The underhood fuse box is located on the passenger's side of the front compartment. To open, push the tab as shown.



The engine compartment fuse box is located next to the air cleaner box. To open, push the tab as shown.

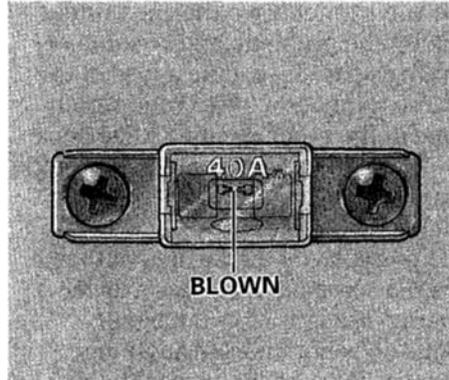


The interior fuse box is underneath the dashboard on the driver's side. To open, turn the knob as shown.

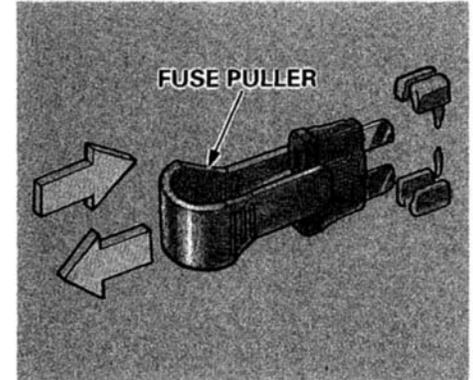
Checking and Replacing Fuses

If something electrical in your car stops working, the first thing you should check for is a blown fuse. Determine from the chart on the fuse box cover (underhood and engine compartment fuse boxes) or inside the fuse box (interior fuse box) which fuse or fuses control that component. Check those fuses first, but check all the fuses before deciding that 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.



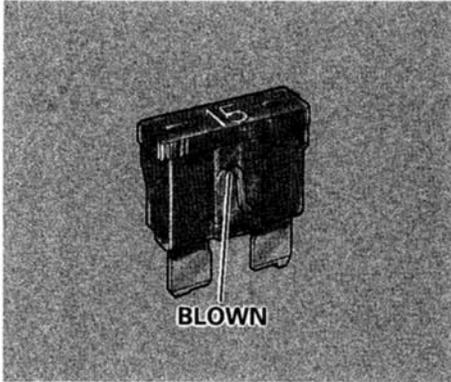
3. Check each of the large fuses in the underhood and engine compartment fuse boxes by looking through the top at the wire inside. Removing these fuses requires a phillips head screwdriver.



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 out, 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 rear window defogger, or radio).

If you replaced the burned out 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 the correct rating as soon as you can.

NOTICE

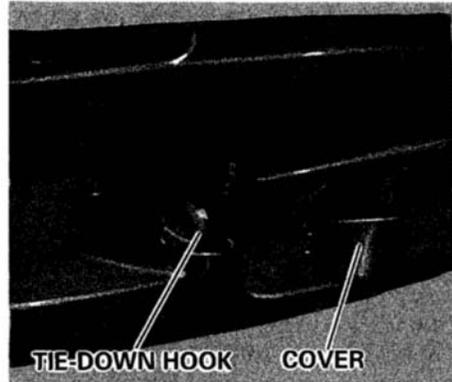
Replacing a fuse with one that has a higher rating greatly increases the chances of damaging the electrical system. If you do not have a replacement fuse with the proper rating for the circuit, install one with a lower rating.

6. If the replacement fuse of the same rating burns out in a short time, there is probably a serious electrical problem in your car. Leave the burned out fuse in that circuit and have your car checked by a qualified technician.

If your car gets stuck in sand, mud, or snow, call a towing service to pull it out. (See page [202](#))

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 [202](#)).

Towing

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 towing your NSX.**

Wheel Lift Equipment— The tow truck uses two pivoting arms which 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. Damage to your car's suspension and body is almost certain if this method of towing is attempted.

If your NSX cannot be towed 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:

- Release the parking brake.
- Shift the 5-speed transmission to Neutral.
- If your car has an automatic transmission, start the engine. Shift the transmission to Drive, then into Neutral, then shut off the engine.

NOTICE

Improper towing preparation will damage the transmission. Follow the above procedure exactly. If you cannot start the engine or shift the transmission, your car must be towed on a flat-bed.

- It is best to tow the car no farther than 50 miles, and keep the speed below 35 mph.

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.

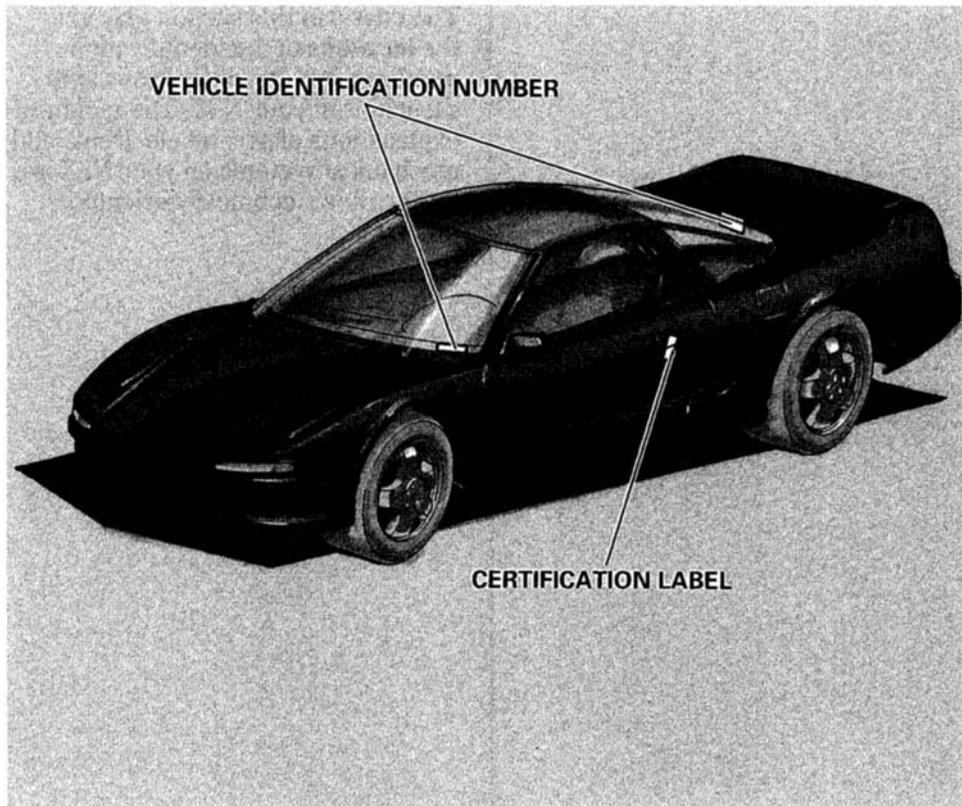
The charts in this section give you the locations of the identification numbers, and the dimensions and capacities of your NSX. The technical explanations of several electronic and mechanical systems on your NSX are for the more technically-oriented owner.

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Identification Numbers

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 door jamb, and is stamped on the engine compartment bulkhead behind the engine. The VIN is also provided in bar code on the 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		174.0 in (4,425 mm)
Width		71.3 in (1,810 mm)
Height		46.3 in (1,175 mm)
Wheelbase		99.6 in (2,530 mm)
Track	Front	59.4 in (1,510 mm)
	Rear	60.2 in (1,530 mm)

Weights		
Gross vehicle weight rating		See the safety certification label attached to the drivers door jamb.

Capacities			
Fuel tank		Approx. 18.5 gal. (70 ℓ)	
Radiator coolant	Change ^{*1}	12.7 US qt (12.0 ℓ)	
	Total	5 speed	16.9 US qt (16.0 ℓ)
		Automatic	17.4 US qt (16.5 ℓ)
Engine oil	Change ^{*2}	5.3 US qt (5.0 ℓ)	
	Total	6.7 US qt (6.3 ℓ)	
5 speed transmission oil	Change	2.9 US qt (2.7 ℓ)	
	Total	3.0 US qt (2.8 ℓ)	
Automatic transmission fluid	Change	3.1 US qt (2.9 ℓ)	
	Total	7.4 US qt (7.0 ℓ)	
Windshield washer reservoir		2.6 US qt (2.5 ℓ)	

* 1 : Including the coolant in the expansion tank (2.2 US qt/2.1 ℓ) and that remaining in the engine.

*2: Excluding the oil remaining in the engine, but including that in the oil filter.

Specifications

Lights		
Headlights		12V – 65/55W
Front turn signal lights		12V – 32CP (SAE 1156)
Front position lights		12V – 5W (SAE 3652)
Rear turn signal lights		12V – 45CP (SAE 3497)
Stop/Taillights		12V – 32/2CP (SAE 2057)
Taillights		12V – 2CP (SAE 194)
Side marker lights	Front	12V – 3CP (SAE 168)
	Rear	12V – 3CP (SAE 168)
Back-up lights		12V – 32CP (SAE 1156)
License plate lights		12V – 8W
Interior light		12V – 5W
Trunk light		12V – 3.4W
Door courtesy lights		12V – 3.4W

Battery		
Capacity	5 speed transmission	12V – 52AH/5HR
	Automatic transmission	12V – 55AH/5HR

Fuses	
Front compartment	See the fuse box cover.
Interior	See the fuse label attached to the inside of the fuse box door under the dashboard.
Engine compartment	See the fuse box cover.

Engine	
Type	Water cooled 4-stroke DOHC V-6 gasoline engine
Bore × Stroke	3.54 × 3.07 in (90.0 × 78.0 mm)
Displacement	181.6 cu in (2,977 cm ³)
Compression ratio	10.2 : 1
Spark plugs	See spark plug maintenance section page 144 .

Alignment		
Toe	Front	out 0.14 in. (3.5 mm)
	Rear	in 0.24 in (6.0 mm)
Camber	Front	-0° 20'
	Rear	-1° 30'
Caster	Front	8°

Tires		
Size	Front	205/50 ZR 15
	Rear	225/50 ZR 16
	Folding Spare Tire	165/80 D 15
Pressure	Front	33 psi (2.3 kg/cm ² , 230 kPa)
	Rear	40 psi (2.8 kg/cm ² , 275 kPa)
	Folding Spare Tire	Front: 26 psi (1.8 kg/cm ² , 180 kPa) Rear: 32 psi (2.2 kg/cm ² , 220 kPa)

Anti-Lock Brake System

The Anti-lock brake system works by measuring and comparing how fast the wheels are turning during braking. If any wheel is rotating much slower than the others (on the verge of locking up and skidding), the system reduces hydraulic pressure to that wheel's brake caliper. When that wheel's speed matches the other wheels, the system applies normal hydraulic pressure. This can take place several times per second at each wheel. You feel the Anti-lock brake system working as rapid pulsations in the brake pedal under very hard braking.

Each wheel has a wheel speed sensor assembly. As the wheel rotates, it sends electrical pulses to the Anti-lock brake system control unit. This control unit compares the frequencies of the four sets of pulses.

The Anti-lock brake system control unit uses the modulator/solenoid unit to regulate the hydraulic pressure of the braking system. When the control unit detects a wheel locking-up, it energizes the appropriate solenoid in the modulator/solenoid unit. There are four solenoids: one for each wheel. The energized solenoid reduces hydraulic pressure to one side of a modulator valve. This, in turn, reduces hydraulic pressure in the brake line going to the affected wheel. When that wheel's speed is correct, the control unit de-energizes the solenoid. This builds hydraulic pressure on the modulator valve. The pressure increases in the hydraulic line to the wheel.

For the system to react quickly, the modulator/solenoid unit must have brake fluid under high pressure. This is supplied by a diaphragm-type accumulator that is pressurized by an electric pump. A pressure-sensing switch on the accumulator controls this pump.

The control unit also contains error detection circuitry. The control unit monitors the operation of the wheel sensors, solenoids, pump, and electronics. If the control unit detects any faults, it shuts off power to the pump motor and solenoids. The ANTILOCK light on the instrument panel comes on. The brakes then work like a conventional system without the Anti-lock brake system.

The TCS works on the same speed-sensing principles as the Anti-lock brake system. The TCS monitors the speed of the wheels during acceleration. If one drive wheel starts to spin faster than the other, or both drive wheels spin faster than the front wheels, the TCS reduces engine power to minimize wheelspin.

The TCS uses the same four wheel speed sensor assemblies used by the Anti-lock brake system. An additional sensor measures steering-wheel-angle. This measures how far the front wheels are turned, if at all. The TCS control unit receives the signals from these sensors.

When the TCS senses wheelspin, the control unit determines how much slippage to allow based on the difference in wheel speeds and the steering angle. It then controls the throttle and signals the engine's ECU to regulate ignition timing and fuel flow. This reduces available engine power.

The control unit monitors the TCS circuitry while driving. If it senses a problem, the TCS indicator light on the instrument panel goes on. The system will then be turned off.

Supplemental Restraint System

The SRS includes the steering wheel airbag assembly, two sensors in the dashboard and a control unit with two more sensors under the dashboard.

The four sensors are decelerometers, set to trigger in a frontal impact that generates more force than a 10 mile per hour barrier crash. For the SRS to activate, at least one dashboard sensor AND one control unit sensor must trigger. This duplication is to prevent accidental activation.

When the control unit receives signals from two sensors, it sends voltage to the airbag. Even if a severe impact damages the car's battery or electrical connections, the control unit keeps reserve power in a capacitor.

The electrical signal to the airbag assembly ignites its propellant, which burns instantaneously. The gas produced by the burning propellant inflates the airbag in about 40 milliseconds (1/25 of a second).

The airbag is vented so it stays inflated for only an instant and does not block the driver's vision. Smoke and powder from the burned propellant comes out of the airbag and into the car's interior. This is normal and does not mean there is a fire. The airbag collapses onto the driver's lap.

The airbag unit can inflate only one time. After use, your Acura dealer must check the complete Supplemental Restraint System and replace the airbag assembly.

To ensure long-term reliability, the SRS uses gold-plated electrical connections throughout. Exposed components are sealed with epoxy. The control unit monitors the SRS circuitry whenever the ignition is ON. If the control unit senses any faults, it turns on the SRS indicator light on the instrument panel. Take the car to your Acura dealer to diagnose and repair the system as soon as possible.

The SRS needs no regular maintenance other than an inspection by your Acura dealer ten years after manufacture.

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 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 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 42.

Crankcase Emission Control System

Your car has a Positive Crankcase Ventilation (PCV) System. This keeps gasses that build up in the engine's crankcase from going into the atmosphere. The PCV 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, a 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 Catalytic Converter. These four systems work together to control the engine's combustion under all driving conditions 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.

Emission Controls

PGM-FI System

The PGM-FI System on your car has three subsystems: Air Intake, Electronic Control, and Fuel Control. The Electronic Control Unit (ECU) 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 and NOx produced.

Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR)

The EGR system takes some of the exhaust gas and routes it back into the intake manifold. Adding the exhaust gas to air/fuel mixture reduces the amount of NOx produced when the fuel is burned.

Catalytic Converter

The catalytic converter is in the exhaust system. Through chemical reactions, it converts HC, CO, and NOx in the engine's exhaust to carbon dioxide (CO₂), dinitrogen (N₂), 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 Honda 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.

The catalytic converter contains platinum and rhodium. These metals 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 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.

A defective catalytic converter contributes to air pollution, and can impair your engine's performance. Follow these guidelines to protect your car's catalytic converter.

- Always use unleaded gasoline. Even a small amount of leaded gasoline can contaminate the catalyst metals, making the converter ineffective.

- Keep the engine tuned-up.
- Have your car diagnosed and repaired if it is misfiring, backfiring, stalling, or otherwise not running properly.

Warranty and Customer Relations

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Warranty Coverages

Your new Acura is covered by these warranties:

New Car Limited Warranty— provides coverage for defects in materials and workmanship for 3 years or 36,000 miles.

Emission Control Systems Defects Warranty and Emissions Performance Warranty— these two warranties cover your car's emission control systems. Time, mileage, and coverage are conditional. Please read the warranty manual for exact information.

Original Equipment Battery Limited Warranty— provides coverage for 36 months, with 100% coverage for the first 24 months.

Seat Belt Limited Warranty— coverage is provided for the useful life of the car on any seat belt that fails to function properly.

Rust Perforation Limited Warranty— body panels that rust through from the inside will be repaired or replaced for up to 36 months. There is 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— provides coverage for defects in materials and workmanship for 12 months or 12,000 miles.

Replacement Battery Limited Warranty— provides coverage for up to 36 months, with 100% coverage for the first 12 months.

Replacement Muffler Lifetime Limited Warranty— provides coverage for as long as the purchaser of the muffler owns the car.

There are restrictions and exclusions which apply to all these warranties. Please read the 1991 Acura NSX 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.

Customer Relations Office

Acura dealership personnel are trained professionals. They should be able to answer any question you may have. If you encounter a problem that your dealer 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. You can write to:

Acura Division
Customer Relations Office
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
100 W. Alondra Blvd.
Gardena, CA 90248

or telephone:
(800) 382-2238

When you call or write, please give us this information:

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- Date of purchase
- Mileage on your car
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This manual covers maintenance and recommended procedures for repair to engine and chassis components. It is written for the Journeyman mechanic, but is simple enough for most mechanically-inclined owners to understand.

Electrical Troubleshooting Manual:

This manual complements the Service Manual by providing in-depth troubleshooting information for each electrical circuit in your car.

Body Repair Manual:

This manual describes the procedures involved in the replacement of damaged body parts.

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Gas Station Information

Gasoline:

Premium UNLEADED gasoline
Pump octane of 91 or higher

Gas Tank Capacity:

18.5 US gal. (70 l)

Recommended Engine Oil:

API SG grade "Energy Conserving
II" oil
SAE 10W—30 viscosity
For temperatures below 32° F (0°C)
Use SAE 5W—30

Engine Oil Capacity:

including filter 5.3 US qt. (5.0 l)
without filter 4.5 qt. (4.3 l)

Tire Pressure (measured cold):

Front: 33 psi (2.3 kg/cm², 230 kPa)
Rear: 40 psi (2.8 kg/cm², 275 kPa)

Folding Spare Tire Pressure:

If used as a spare for either
front tires:
26 psi (1.8 kg/cm², 180 kPa)
rear tires:
32 psi (2.2 kg/cm², 220 kPa)

Tire Size:

Front: 205/50ZR15
Rear: 225/50ZR16
Folding Spare Tire: 165/80D15

Other Tire Information:

See label on the drivers door jamb

5 Speed Transmission Oil:

SAE 10W—30 or 10W—40 viscosity
API SF or SG grade recommended

Capacity (including differential):

2.9 US qt (2.7 l)

Automatic Transmission Fluid:

Honda Premium Formula Automatic
Transmission Fluid or an equivalent
DEXRON® II type Automatic Trans-
mission Fluid (ATF)

Capacity (including differential):

3.1 US qt. (2.9 l)