

# Gasoline

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For proper operation of your car's emission controls, your engine is designed to use unleaded fuel only.

**CAUTION:**

**Using leaded or even low-lead gasoline could damage some of your emission controls, and also void their coverage under the emission controls warranty.**

Use gasoline from pumps labeled unleaded, with a pump octane number of 86 or higher. The pump octane number is an average of the Research (R) octane and Motor (M) octane numbers. Use of a lower octane gasoline can cause persistent, heavy "spark knock" (a metallic rapping noise), which can lead to engine damage if severe.

**CAUTION:**

**If you notice steady spark knock while holding a steady speed on a level road, try changing brands of gasoline. If the spark knock persists, consult your Honda dealer. Failure to do so is considered misuse, and misuse is not covered under the New Car Warranty.**

Occasionally you may notice light spark knock while accelerating or driving up hills. This is no cause for concern, it simply means your engine is running at its most economical.

## **Gasoline Containing Alcohol**

If you decide to use a gasoline containing alcohol ("gasohol"), be sure its octane rating is at least as high as that recommended for unleaded gasoline. There are two types of "gasohol": that containing ethanol, and that containing methanol. Do not use gasohol that contains more than 10% ethanol. Do not use gasoline containing methanol (methyl or wood alcohol) that does not also contain cosolvents and corrosion inhibitors for methanol. Never use gasoline containing more than 5% methanol, even if it has cosolvents and corrosion inhibitors.

**NOTE.**

- Fuel system damage or vehicle performance problems resulting from the use of such fuels is not covered under the new car warranties. Honda cannot endorse the use of fuels containing methanol since evidence of their suitability is as yet incomplete.
- Before purchasing fuel from an unfamiliar station, try to confirm whether the fuel contains alcohol, of what kind, and how much. If you notice any undesirable operating symptoms after using a gasoline that contains alcohol; or one that you think contains alcohol, switch to an unleaded gasoline, as recommended above.

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## Operation In Foreign Countries

In order to comply with U.S. Federal Emissions Regulations, you must use unleaded fuels of the recommended octane rating. These fuels may not be available in other countries. If you intend taking your car outside the U.S. or Canada, write to American Honda Consumer Affairs (stating the year and model of your car) at the address below for information regarding modifications you may need to have done.

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Consumer Affairs  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2722

## Fuel Filler Door and Cap

### **▲ WARNING**

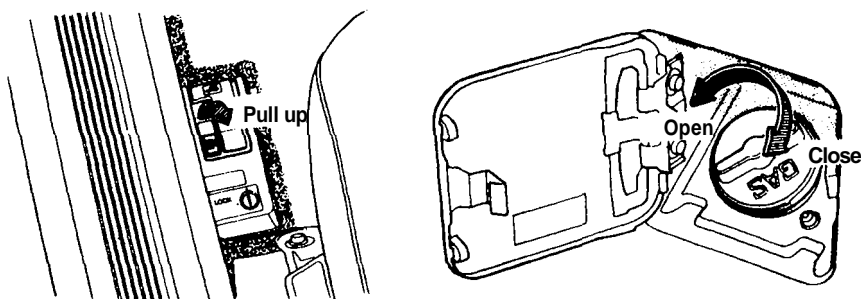
**Gasoline is extremely flammable and is explosive under certain conditions. Perform this operation in a well-ventilated area with the engine stopped. Do not smoke or allow open flames or sparks in the area or where gasoline is stored.**

The fuel filler door is opened by pulling up on the lever at the left side of the driver's seat.

The door will lock automatically when closed; push it until it clicks.

### **CAUTION:**

**You may hear a hiss when you open the filler cap. This sound is residual pressure escaping from the fuel tank. Open the cap slowly and remove the cap after the hissing stops. Fuel spray may cause injury. Do not overfill the tank; fill only until the gas pump clicks off automatically and never top off.**



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## Gasoline (cont'd)

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### **⚠ WARNING**

Fuel vapor is extremely hazardous under certain conditions. Always stop the engine before refueling, and never refuel near sparks or open flames.

### **CAUTION:**

When reinstalling the fuel cap, be sure both tabs on the cap are engaged in the slots of the filler neck and turn the cap until it stops. If you replace the cap, use only a genuine Honda replacement part or its equivalent. Failure to use the proper part could cause serious fuel system problems.

### **How to Improve Your Gas Mileage:**

- Drive at a smooth, steady pace to avoid unnecessary decelerations and stops — accelerating back to speed uses more fuel.
- Plan trips to avoid rush hour traffic if possible.
- Make sure the parking brake is completely released.
- Consolidate trips whenever possible.
- Keep vehicle weight to a minimum by removing unnecessary items from the luggage area.
- Whenever possible, use fresh air from the dash vents to keep cool when driving; open windows, or use of the optional air conditioning both affect fuel economy.
- Keep the tires adjusted to the recommended pressure.

Tire Pressure (measured cold):

|               |       |                  |
|---------------|-------|------------------|
| STD Hatchback | front | 240 kPa (35 psi) |
|               | rear  | 220 kPa (32 psi) |
| DX Hatchback  | front | 220 kPa (32 psi) |
|               | rear  | 220 kPa (32 psi) |
| Si Hatchback  | front | 195 kPa (28 psi) |
|               | rear  | 195 kPa (28 psi) |
| DX Sedan      | front | 220 kPa (32 psi) |
|               | rear  | 220 kPa (32 psi) |
| LX Sedan      | front | 180 kPa (26 psi) |
|               | rear  | 180 kPa (26 psi) |
| EX Sedan      | front | 180 kPa (26 psi) |
|               | rear  | 180 kPa (26 psi) |

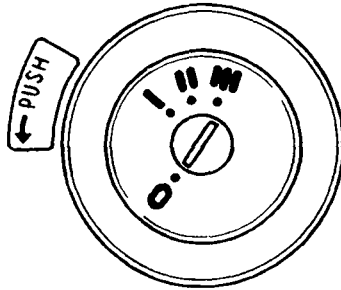
### **Condition of Your Car**

You can only get maximum fuel economy if your car is in top running condition. Have all required maintenance done at the proper intervals. Check tire pressures and tire wear frequently. If tire wear is uneven, have the alignment checked by your Honda dealer. Proper alignment saves gasoline and prolongs tire life.

## Ignition Switch

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The combined ignition switch/anti-theft lock is located on the right side of the steering column and has four positions:



- **0-LOCK position:** The key can be removed or inserted in this position. To remove the key, push it in at position I, then turn it to 0 and pull it out. When the key is removed, the steering column will lock.

### NOTE:

On cars equipped with automatic transmissions, the transmission must be in Park before pushing and turning the key to the 0-LOCK position.

### ▲ WARNING

**Never turn the ignition switch to the lock position or remove the key while the car is in motion; the steering wheel can lock causing a loss of directional control, and an accident could result.**

- **I-ACCESSORY position:** In this position, the accessory circuit is on, but the ignition circuit is off.  
If the key is difficult to turn from the 0 to the I position, turn the steering wheel slightly to relieve pressure on the lock.
- **II-ON position:** This is the normal running position.
- **III-START position:** The starter will engage when the key is turned to this position.

To remind you to remove the ignition key when leaving your car, a beeper will sound if the key is still in the ignition when you open the driver's door. The beeper system is deactivated when you turn the ignition to 0 (Lock) and fully remove the key.

# Starting the Engine

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## Before Starting

### Manual Transmission:

1. Apply the parking brake.
2. Push the clutch pedal all the way in (see NOTE below).
3. Shift the transmission to neutral.

#### NOTE:

On cars equipped with manual transmissions, the engine will not crank unless the clutch pedal is fully depressed.

### Automatic Transmission:

1. Make sure the shift lever is in Park (P).
2. Apply the parking brake and the foot brake.

#### NOTE:

- When starting in cold weather, keep all unnecessary electrical circuits off (lights, defogger, etc.) for the best battery output.
- Do not crank the engine for more than 15 seconds at a time. Wait 10 seconds before going to the next step.

## Starting the Engine

1. With your foot off the accelerator start the engine by turning the key to the III position.
2. If the engine won't start within 15 seconds or starts but fails to continue to run, push the accelerator pedal halfway, and hold it there while cranking the engine. Once the engine starts, release the accelerator gradually as the engine speeds up.
3. If it doesn't start within 15 seconds, push the accelerator pedal down to the floor and hold it there while cranking in order to clear flooding. Try step 2 again.

## Cold Weather at High Altitude Starting

1. When starting in cold weather at high altitude (above 8,000 feet), push the accelerator pedal about halfway and hold it there while cranking the engine. Once the engine starts, release the accelerator gradually as the engine speeds up.
2. If it doesn't start within 15 seconds, push the accelerator pedal down to the floor and hold it there while cranking in order to clear flooding. Try step 1 again.

#### NOTE:

If the outside temperature is below freezing, or if your car has not been driven for several days, warm up the engine for a few minutes before driving.

**Before driving away, check that:**

- The doors are closed properly.
- The mirrors are properly adjusted, and the windows clean.
- The driver and passengers are wearing properly adjusted seat belts.
- The head restraints are properly adjusted.
- The warning and indicator lights are operating properly.
- The brake pedal feels normal.
- All luggage and cargo is secured.
- Nothing is interfering with the driver's feet or blocking vision to the rear.

**While driving remember to:**

- Always drive defensively; expect the unexpected.
- Reduce your speed during night hours and bad weather.
- Follow at a safe distance; don't tailgate.
- Get off the highway when you are tired; stop and take a rest.

**When stopping for repairs:**

- Park the car well off the road.
- Turn on the hazard warning flasher.
- Use flares or other warning devices to warn other motorists.

**After parking your car:**

- Apply the parking brake and shift to first gear if equipped with manual transmission, or PARK on automatic transmission equipped cars.
- Make sure the sunroof and windows are closed and the doors are locked.
- If parked on a hill:
  1. Turn the front wheels away from the curb if facing uphill.
  2. Turn the front wheels toward the curb if facing downhill.
- Never leave children unattended in a parked car.
- Take your keys.

# Engine Exhaust Gas Warning



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A properly maintained car is your best protection against exhaust gas entering the passenger compartment.

The exhaust system should be thoroughly inspected by a competent mechanic whenever:

- The car is raised for oil change.
- You notice a change in the sound of the exhaust.
- The exhaust system or the rear or underside of the car is damaged.

## WARNING

- **Avoid breathing exhaust gases. They contain carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, odorless gas that can cause loss of consciousness and eventual death. If you suspect that exhaust gas is entering the passenger compartment, have the cause determined and corrected as soon as possible. If you must drive under these conditions, drive only with all windows fully open.**
- **Do not drive with the hatch/trunk lid open. An open hatch/trunk may draw exhaust gases into the passenger compartment. If you must drive with the hatch/trunk open, drive only with all the windows wide open.**
- **Do not run the engine in confined areas, such as garages, any longer than necessary to move the car in or out.**
- **If you must sit in a parked car with the engine running for more than a short time, adjust the heating/ventilation system as follows:**
  1. **Set the function lever to the  position.**
  2. **Set the temperature control dial for best comfort.**
  3. **Set the recirculation lever to the  position.**
  4. **Turn the fan to the highest speed.**

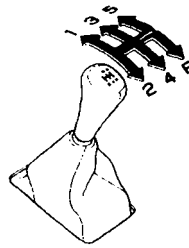
## NOTE:

To insure proper operation of the car's ventilation system, keep the front air inlet clear of snow, mud, leaves or other obstructions.

# Shifting the 4 or 5 Speed

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The fully synchronized manual transmission is very easy to shift up or down. When you slow down for traffic, steep hills, or corners, shift to a lower gear before the engine starts to labor. When descending steep grades, select a lower gear to help maintain a safe speed and to prevent the brakes from overheating.



When shifting, depress the clutch pedal fully, shift gears and then release the clutch gradually. Do not speed-shift; allow time for the gears to synchronize.

To prevent grinding the gears when shifting into reverse, hold the clutch pedal depressed briefly before shifting, or shift the lever into one of the forward gears before selecting reverse.

On 5 speed transmissions, a safety lockout prevents accidental shifting straight from 5th to Reverse.

## **▲ WARNING**

**Avoid rapid acceleration or sudden deceleration when either or both driving wheels are on a slippery surface. Decreased traction could cause loss of directional control.**

## **Clutch Pedal Adjustment**

Clutch pedal free travel must be adjusted periodically to compensate for lining wear. There should be approximately 25 mm (1 in) of pedal free travel. If not, or if the clutch seems to slip or you have difficulty shifting, have your dealer check the clutch adjustment.

## **CAUTION:**

- **Do not drive with your foot on the clutch pedal as this will cause premature wear of clutch components.**
- **Do not shift into reverse while the car is moving.**
- **Driving with the clutch pedal free travel improperly adjusted can cause premature wear of the clutch components.**

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## Shifting the 4 or 5 Speed (cont'd)

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### Recommended Shift Speeds

For best fuel economy, and effective emission control, shift at the speeds shown:

#### STD Hatchback

| Shift up   | Normal Acceleration |
|------------|---------------------|
| 1st to 2nd | 15 mph (24 km/h)    |
| 2nd to 3rd | 25 mph (40 km/h)    |
| 3rd to 4th | 40 mph (64 km/h)    |

#### DX Hatchback and Sedan

| Shift up   | Normal Acceleration | Cruise From Acceleration |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st to 2nd | 15 mph (24 km/h)    | 9 mph (14 km/h)          |
| 2nd to 3rd | 27 mph (43 km/h)    | 20 mph (32 km/h)         |
| 3rd to 4th | 39 mph (62 km/h)    | 33 mph (53 km/h)         |
| 4th to 5th | 53 mph (85 km/h)    | 48 mph (77 km/h)         |

#### Si Hatchback

| Shift up   | Normal Acceleration | Cruise From Acceleration |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st to 2nd | 14 mph (22 km/h)    | 7 mph (11 km/h)          |
| 2nd to 3rd | 25 mph (40 km/h)    | 20 mph (32 km/h)         |
| 3rd to 4th | 36 mph (58 km/h)    | 30 mph (48 km/h)         |
| 4th to 5th | 49 mph (78 km/h)    | 45 mph (72 km/h)         |

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### Maximum Allowable Speeds

The speeds shown below are the maximum at which the car can be driven or downshifted in each gear without over-revving the engine.

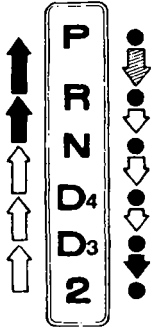
| Model<br>Gear | STD Hatchback     | DX Hatchback      |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1st           | 30 mph (49 km/h)  | 35 mph (56 km/h)  |
| 2nd           | 60 mph (97 km/h)  | 60 mph (97 km/h)  |
| 3rd           | 96 mph (155 km/h) | 91 mph (146 km/h) |

| Model<br>Gear | Si Hatchback      | Sedan             |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1st           | 30 mph (49 km/h)  | 32 mph (52 km/h)  |
| 2nd           | 52 mph (84 km/h)  | 55 mph (89 km/h)  |
| 3rd           | 79 mph (127 km/h) | 83 mph (134 km/h) |

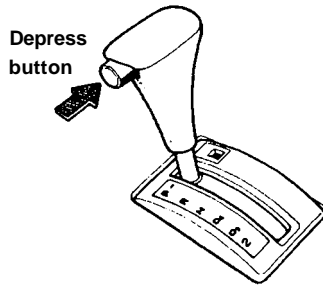
# Shifting the Automatic

The automatic transmission shift lever has a locking mechanism to prevent accidental shifting into Reverse (R), Park (P) or 2nd (2). Also, an Automatic Shift Lock prevents you from shifting out of Park unless the brake pedal is already depressed and the ignition switch is in the II position.

Push the button on the shift handle to shift into 2nd, Reverse or Park; depress the brake pedal and then push the button on the shift handle to shift out of Park.

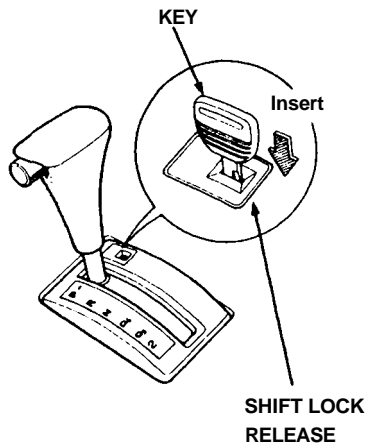


- ➡ : Depress the brake pedal first and push the button, then shift.
- ➡ : Push the button, then shift.
- ↩ : Shift as desired.



If you cannot shift out of Park with the brake pedal depressed and the ignition switch in the II position:

1. Turn the ignition switch off and remove the key.
2. Insert the key in the Shift Lock Release located to the right of the shift lever.
3. Press and hold the key down, then press the button on the shift handle and move the shift lever to Neutral.
4. Return the key to the ignition switch, depress the brake pedal and restart the engine.



## NOTE:

If you encounter any problem shifting out of Park, have your authorized Honda dealer check the system as soon as possible.

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## **Operating Tips**

For smoother operation, apply the brakes when shifting from Neutral or Park to a forward or reverse gear.

When parking: bring the car to a stop with the foot brake, hold the brake on and shift into Park, set the hand brake and then turn off the engine.

### **NOTE:**

Your 4 speed automatic transmission is equipped with a torque converter lock-up clutch. Because of this, you may notice what feels like an extra shift as the clutch engages.

### **CAUTION:**

- **Shift into P only after the car has come to a complete stop.**
- **Shift into or out of R only after the car has come to a complete stop.**
- **Do not "rev-up" the engine when the brake is on and the shift lever is in D<sub>4</sub>, D<sub>3</sub>, 2 or R.**
- **When stopped on a hill, use the brakes to hold your position, not the accelerator pedal.**
- **Do not shift from N or P into D<sub>4</sub>, D<sub>3</sub>, 2 or R when the engine is above idle speed. Before shifting into gear, make sure your foot is firmly on the brake pedal.**
- **Do not rest your hand on the shift lever or push the shift button while driving.**

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# Shifting the Automatic (cont'd)

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## Driving Technique

### D<sub>4</sub>-4th

Use the D<sub>4</sub> range for normal in-town and highway driving. The car will start off in 1st and shift automatically to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. The further down you push the accelerator, the later the transmission will shift and the faster the car will accelerate.

### D<sub>3</sub>-3rd

Use of D<sub>3</sub> will allow the transmission to start off in 1st and shift automatically to 2nd and 3rd. Use D<sub>3</sub> when climbing grades to prevent the transmission from "hunting" between 3rd and 4th gear; or when increased braking is needed.

### NOTE:

If rapid acceleration is necessary, depress the accelerator to the floor; the transmission will automatically shift down according to load and engine speed. This applies to both D<sub>4</sub> and D<sub>3</sub> ranges.

### 2-2nd

Use 2nd gear for increased engine braking when driving downhill, and increased power when driving uphill; also for driving on slippery roads, and freeing the car from mud or sand, where 1st gear could provide too much power and cause skidding or wheelspin. The maximum recommended speed in 2nd gear is:  
62 mph (100 km/h)

### R-Reverse

#### CAUTION:

**Shift into or out of reverse only after the car has come to a complete stop; the transmission may be damaged if you shift while the car is moving.**

### P-Park

#### CAUTION:

**Use this position when starting the engine, or when parking. Shift into Park only when the car is COMPLETELY stopped.**

### N-Neutral

Use when starting the engine or during prolonged idling in traffic.