

Break-in Period, Gasoline

Break-in Period

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

- Avoid full-throttle starts and rapid acceleration.
- If you need to add oil, use the engine oil recommended in this owner's manual.
- Avoid hard braking. New brakes need to be broken-in by moderate use for the first 300 km (200 miles).

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

Gasoline

Your Honda is designed to operate most effectively on unleaded gasoline with a pump octane number of 86 or higher. Use of a lower octane gasoline can cause a persistent, heavy metallic rapping noise that can lead to engine damage.

Gasolines containing detergent additives designed to help prevent fuel system and engine deposits are recommended. Using gasoline containing lead will damage your car's emission controls. This contributes to air pollution and can void certain parts of your warranty.

Oxygenated Fuels

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

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

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

The following are the EPA-approved percentages of oxygenates:

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

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

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

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

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

Driving in Foreign Countries

Using any type of leaded gasoline in your Honda will affect performance and damage its emission controls. Unleaded gasoline may not be available in other countries. If you are planning to take your car outside the U.S. or Canada, write to Honda at the address shown for information about any modifications your car may need. Be sure to include the year and model of your car.

U.S. Owners:

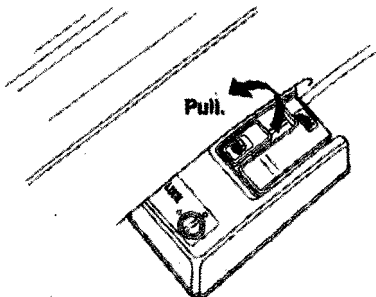
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Consumer Affairs
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

Canadian Owners:

Honda Canada Inc.
715 Milner Ave.
Scarborough, Ontario M1B2K8

Service Station Procedures

Filling the Fuel Tank



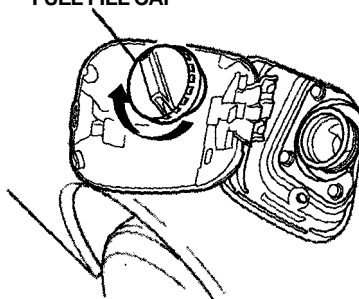
1. The fuel fill is on the driver's side of the car. Park with that side closest to the service station pumps.
2. Open the fuel fill door by pulling on the handle to the left of the driver's seat.

⚠ WARNING

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.

FUEL FILL CAP

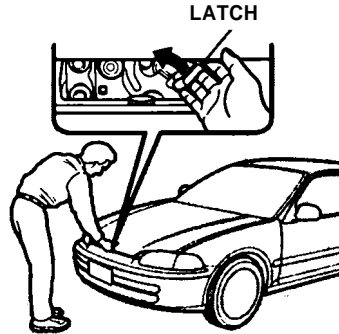


3. Remove the fuel fill cap slowly. You may hear a hissing sound as pressure inside the tank escapes.
4. Stop filling the tank after the gas pump automatically clicks off. Do not try to "top off" the tank, leave some room for the fuel to expand with temperature changes.
5. Screw the fuel fill cap back on, tighten it until it clicks.
6. Push the fuel fill door until it latches.

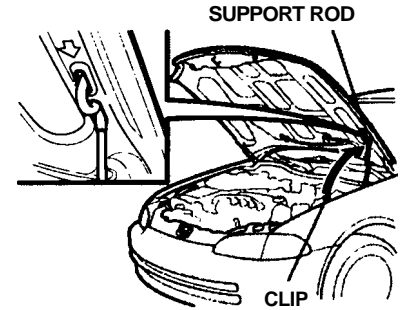
Opening the Hood



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



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

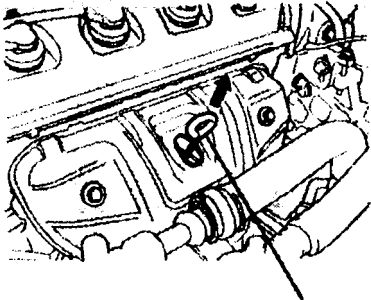


3. Pull the support rod out of its clip and insert the end into the hole on the left side of the hood.

To close the hood, lift it up slightly to remove the support rod from the hole. Put the support rod back into its holding clip. Lower the hood to about a foot above the fender, then let it drop.

Service Station Procedures

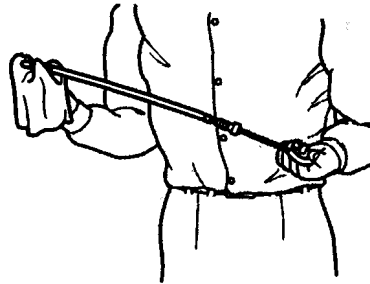
Oil Check



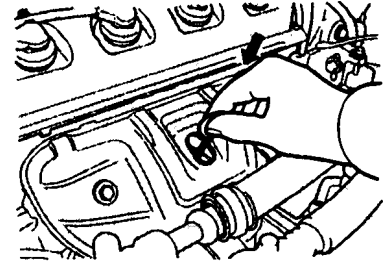
DIPSTICK

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

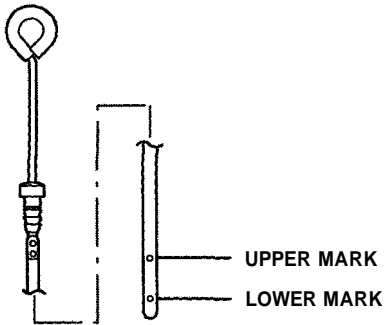
1. Remove the dipstick (orange handle).



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



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

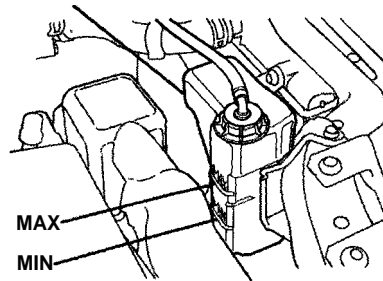


4. Remove it again and check the level. It should be between the upper and lower marks.

If it is near or below the lower mark, see page [111](#) for information on the proper oil and how to add it.

Engine Coolant Check

RESERVE TANK



Look at the coolant level in the radiator reserve tank. Make sure it is between the MAX and MIN lines. If it is below the MIN line, see **Adding Coolant** on page [115](#) for information on adding the proper coolant.

Refer to **Periodic Checks** on page [109](#) for information on checking other items in your Honda.

Fuel Economy

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 109). For example an underinflated tire causes more "rolling resistance," which uses fuel. It also wears out faster, so check the tire pressure at least monthly. In winter the build-up of snow on your car's underside adds weight and rolling resistance. Frequent cleaning helps your fuel mileage and reduces the chance of corrosion.

Driving Habits

You can improve fuel economy by driving moderately. Rapid acceleration, 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 while 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. It is not necessary to "warm-up" a cold engine by letting it idle for a long time. You can drive away within thirty seconds, no matter how cold it is outside. The engine will warm up faster, and you get better fuel economy. To cut down on the number of "cold starts," try to combine several short trips into one.

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

Your Honda dealer has many accessories available to personalize your car. Some of these are audio systems, alloy wheels, air conditioning, and color-coordinated carpet floor mats. All Genuine Honda Accessories have been approved by our engineers for installation and use on your car, and are covered by warranty. For a complete guide to the Genuine Honda Accessories available, see your dealer for a 1993 Accessories brochure.

Some non-Honda accessories you can buy in the "aftermarket" are designed for universal applications. Although they may fit your Honda, they may not be within factory specifications. For example, after-market wheels may not meet Honda'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 and the engine's fuel injection system. Strong electronic interference can affect their operation.

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

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

Loading Cargo

The maximum load you can carry in your Honda is 850 lbs (385 kg). It includes the total weight of all passengers and their belongings, and any accessories. This 850 lbs (385 kg) figure is shown as the Vehicle Capacity Weight on the tire information label attached to the inside of the glove box.

To figure out how much cargo you can carry:

- Figure the total "occupant weight" you will be transporting. To do this, multiply the number of people (driver and all passengers) by 150 lbs (70 kg).
- Subtract this number from the Vehicle Capacity Weight (850 lbs/385 kg).

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

Where you store this cargo, and how well you secure it are just as important as how much it weighs. Make sure you load cargo so it will not shift while driving. Items stored in the trunk should be placed as far forward as possible. You could store additional items on the floor behind the front seats. Make sure they cannot roll under the front seat and interfere with the pedals.

If you must carry large objects that prevent you from closing the trunk lid, be aware that exhaust gas can enter the interior. See Carbon Monoxide Hazard on page [25](#).

Never place items on the shelf behind the back seat. Those items can fly forward and injure you or your passengers if you brake hard or are involved in a collision.