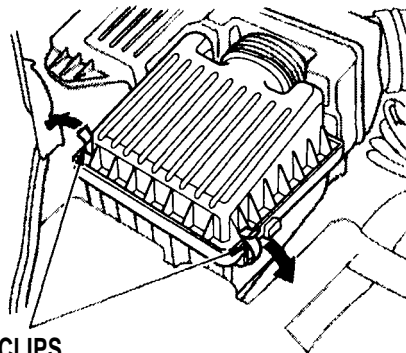


Air Cleaner Element

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

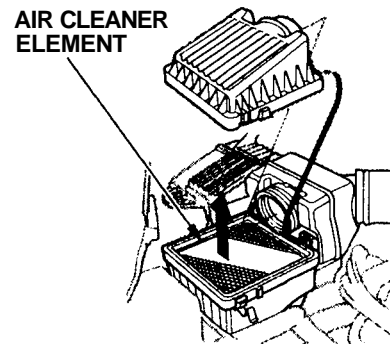
Replacement



The air cleaner element is inside the air cleaner housing on the right side of the engine compartment.

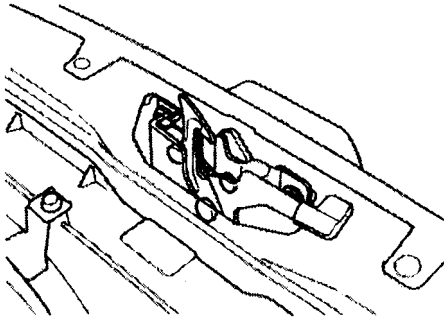
To replace it:

1. Unsnap the two clips and remove the air cleaner housing cover.



2. Remove the old air cleaner element.
Carefully clean the inside of the air cleaner housing with a damp rag.
3. Place the new air cleaner element in the air cleaner housing.
4. Align the tabs and reinstall the air cleaner housing cover, snap the two clips back into place.

Hood Latch

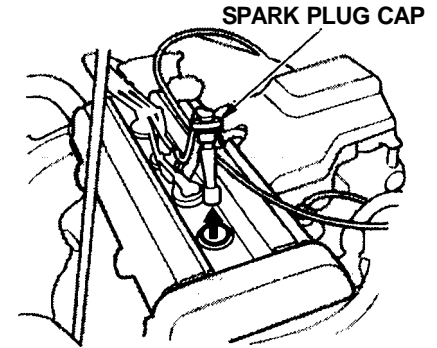


Clean the hood latch assembly with a mild cleaner, then lubricate it with a multipurpose grease. Lubricate all the moving parts, including the pivot. Follow the time and distance recommendations in the Maintenance Schedule. If you are not sure how to clean and grease the latch, contact your Honda dealer.

Spark Plugs

The spark plugs in your car should be replaced according to the time and distance recommendations in the maintenance schedule.

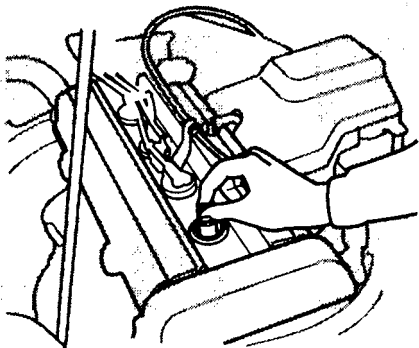
Replacement



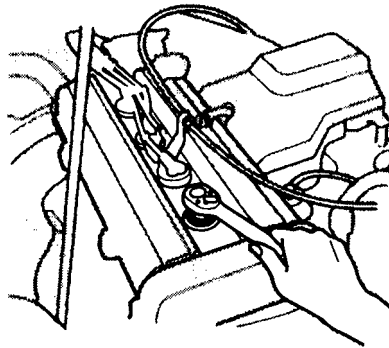
1. Clean up any dirt and oil around the spark plug caps.
2. Remove the spark plug cap by pulling it straight out.
3. Remove the spark plug with a five-eighths inch (16 mm) spark plug socket.

CONTINUED

Spark Plugs



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



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

NOTICE

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

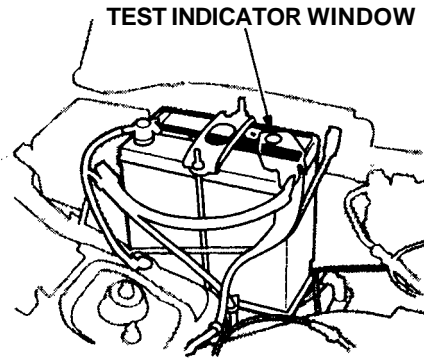
6. Install the spark plug cap.
7. Repeat this procedure for the other three spark plugs.

Specifications:

NGK: **ZFR6F-11**
DENSO: **KJ20CR-L11**

Spark Plug Gap:
0.043 in $^{+0}_{-0.004}$ in (1.1 mm $^{+0}_{-0.1}$ mm)

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

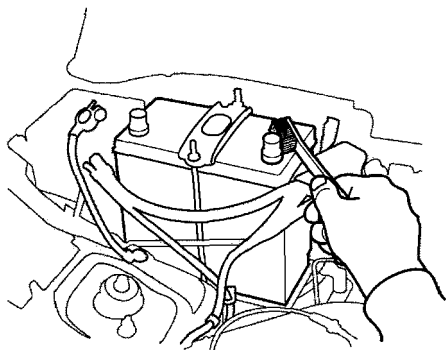


Check the battery condition by looking at the test indicator window on the battery. The label on the battery explains the test indicator's colors.

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

CONTINUED

Battery



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

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

WARNING

The battery gives off explosive hydrogen gas during normal operation.

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

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

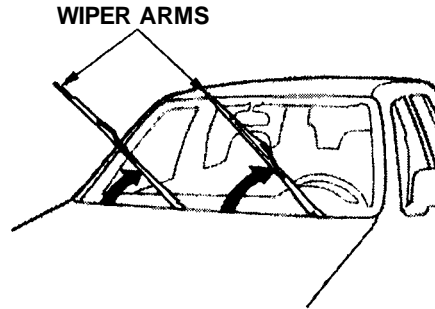
On EX model

If your vehicle's battery is disconnected or goes dead, the audio system will disable itself. The next time you turn on the radio you will see " Code " in the frequency display. Use the Preset buttons to enter the five-digit code (see page 137).

NOTICE

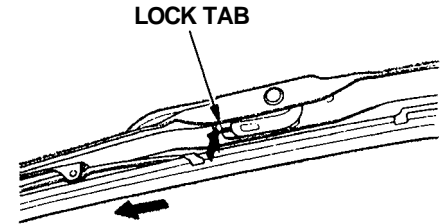
Charging the battery with the cables connected can seriously damage your vehicle's electronic controls. Detach the battery cables before connecting the battery to a charger.

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



To replace the blade:

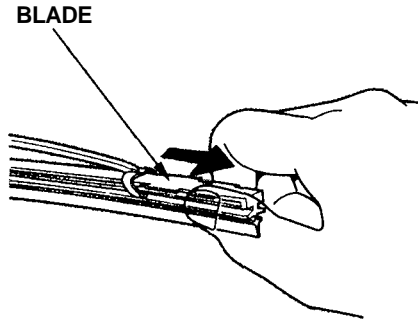
1. Raise the wiper arm off the windshield.



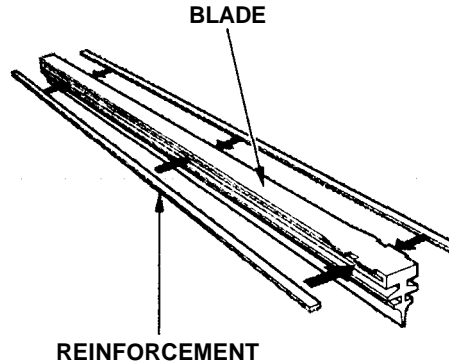
2. Disconnect the blade assembly from the wiper arm by pushing in the lock tab. Hold it in while you push the blade assembly toward the base of the arm.

CONTINUED

Wiper Blades



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



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

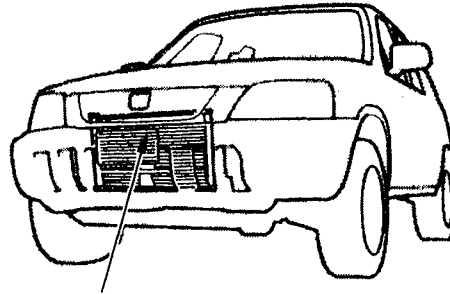
5. Slide the new wiper blade into the holder until the tabs lock.
6. Slide the wiper blade assembly onto the wiper arm. Make sure it locks in place.
7. Lower the wiper arm down against the windshield.

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

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

NOTICE

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



AIR CONDITIONING CONDENSER

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

If the air conditioning does not get as cold as before, have your dealer check the system. Recharge the system with Refrigerant HFC-134a (R-134a). (See Specifications on page [279](#).)

NOTICE

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

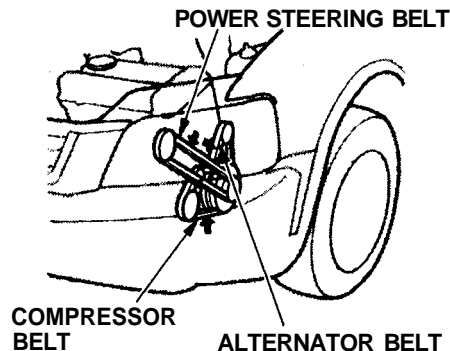
Air Conditioning Filter, Drive Belts

Air Conditioning Filter

The air conditioning filter removes pollen and dust that is brought in from the outside through the heating and cooling system.

This filter should be replaced every 30,000 miles (48,000 km) under normal conditions. It should be replaced every 15,000 miles (24,000 km) if you drive primarily in urban areas that have high concentrations of soot in the air from industry and diesel-powered vehicles. Replace it more often if air flow from the heating and cooling system becomes less than usual. Have the air conditioning filter replaced by your Honda dealer.

Drive Belts



Check the condition of the three drive belts. Examine the edges of each belt for cracks or fraying. Check the tension of each belt by pushing on it with your thumb midway between the pulleys.

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

Alternator belt:

0.33 — 0.45 in (8.5 — 11.5 mm)

Compressor belt:

0.30 — 0.41 in (7.5 — 10.5 mm)

Power steering belt:

0.43 — 0.57 in (11.0 — 14.5 mm)

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

Timing Belt

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

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

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

Tires

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

WARNING

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

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

Inflation

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

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

CONTINUED