Cooling System

Checking the Engine Coolant Level

Check the level of the engine coolant by looking at the radiator reserve tank next to the air cleaner element box. 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 that can corrode if an improper antifreeze is used. Some antifreeze, even though labeled as safe for aluminum parts, may not provide adequate protection.

Adding Engine Coolant

If the reserve tank is completely empty, you should also check the coolant level in the radiator.

**WARNING**

Removing the radiator 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 radiator cap.

1. Make sure the engine and radiator are cool.
2. Turn the radiator cap counterclockwise, without pressing down on it, until it stops. This relieves any pressure remaining in the cooling system.

3. Remove the radiator cap by pushing down and turning counterclockwise.

4. The coolant level should be up to the base of the filler neck. Add coolant if it is low.

5. Put the radiator cap back on. Tighten it fully.

6. Pour coolant into the reserve tank. Fill it to halfway between the MAX and MIN marks. Put the cap back on the reserve tank.

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 Engine 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.

Draining the coolant requires access to the underside of the car. Unless you have the tools and knowledge, you should have this maintenance done by a skilled mechanic.
1. Slide the heater temperature control lever to maximum heat. Open the hood. Make sure the engine and radiator are cool to the touch.

2. Remove the radiator cap.

3. Loosen the drain plug in the bottom of the radiator. The coolant will drain through the splash guard. Remove the drain bolt from the engine block.

4. Remove the reserve tank from its holder by pulling it straight up. Drain the coolant, then put the tank back in its holder.

5. When the coolant stops draining, tighten the drain plug in the bottom of the radiator. Apply non-hardening sealant to the drain bolt threads and reinstall the bolt in the engine block. Tighten it securely.

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6. Mix the recommended antifreeze with an equal amount of purified or distilled water in a clean container. The cooling system capacity is:
   * With 5-speed manual transmission:
     - 0.95 U.S. gal (0.79 Imp. gal, 3.6 l)
   * With automatic transmission:
     - DX: 0.92 U.S. gal (0.77 Imp. gal, 3.5 l)
     - U.S.: EX, EX w/option package
     - Canada: Si
     - 1.00 U.S. gal (0.841 Imp. gal, 3.8 l)

7. Pour coolant into the radiator up to the base of the filler neck.

8. Loosen the bleeder bolt on top of the engine. Tighten it again when coolant comes out in a steady stream with no bubbles.

9. Refill the radiator to the base of the filler neck. Put the cap on the radiator, 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).

10. Turn off the engine. Check the level in the radiator, add coolant if needed. Install the radiator cap, tighten it fully.

11. Fill the reserve tank to the MAX mark. Install the reserve tank cap.
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 behind the left headlight. Check the reservoir’s fluid level by removing the cap and looking inside.

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

**NOTICE**

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

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

Use only commercially-available windshield washer fluid.
Transmission 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 (yellow loop) from the transmission and wipe it with a clean cloth.

3. Insert the dipstick into the transmission.

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

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

6. Insert the dipstick all the way back in the transmission.

The transmission should be drained and refilled with new fluid every 24 months or 30,000 miles (48,000 km), whichever comes first.
Check the oil level a couple of minutes after shutting off the engine. Make sure the car is on level ground. Remove the transmission filler bolt. 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 viscosity of SAE 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.