

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 and trunk are fully closed.
3. Visually check the tires. If a tire looks low, use a gauge to check its pressure.
4. Check that any items you may be carrying with you inside are stored properly or fastened down securely.
5. Check the adjustment of the seat (see page 12).
6. Check the adjustment of the inside and outside mirrors (see page 97).
7. Check the adjustment of the steering wheel (see page 17).
8. Make sure the doors are securely closed and locked.
9. Fasten your seat belt. Check that your passengers have fastened their seat belts (see page 15).
10. Turn the ignition switch ON (II). Check the indicator lights in the instrument panel.
11. Start the engine (see page 161).
12. Check the gauges and indicator lights in the instrument panel (see page 53).

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 (III) position. If the engine does not start right away, do not hold the key in START (III) 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 (III) 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 8,000 feet/ 2,400 meters)

An engine is harder to start in cold weather. The thinner air found at high altitude above 8,000 feet (2,400 meters) adds to the problem. Use the following procedure:

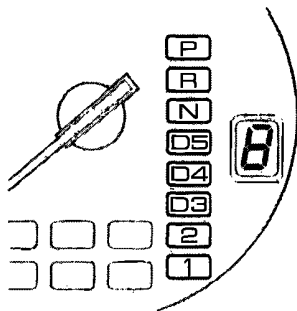
1. Turn off all electrical accessories to reduce the drain on the battery.

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 (III) 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.

Automatic Transmission

Your Acura's transmission has five 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 Indicator

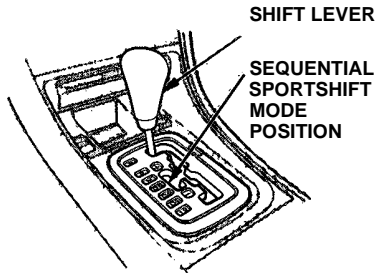


This indicator in the tachometer shows which position the shift lever is in. The illuminated number next to the "D5" indicator shows you the gear you have selected in the Sequential SportShift mode.

The "D5" indicator comes on for a few seconds when you turn the ignition switch ON (II). If it 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.

Automatic Transmission

Shift Lever Positions



The shift lever has nine positions. It must be in Park or Neutral to start the engine. When you are stopped in D₅, D₄, D₃, 2, 1, N, R, or the Sequential SportShift mode, press firmly on the brake pedal and keep your foot off the accelerator pedal.

To select the Sequential SportShift mode, slide the shift lever toward the left from the "D₅" position. In this mode the shift lever allows you to shift up and down manually.

To shift from:	Do this:
P to R	Press the brake pedal, then move the shift lever.
R to N N to D ₅ D ₅ to D ₄ D ₄ to D ₃ D ₃ to 2 2 to 1 1 to 2 2 to D ₃ D ₃ to D ₄ D ₄ to D ₅	Move the lever.
N to R R to P	

Whenever you move the shift lever, slide it along the guide on the console.

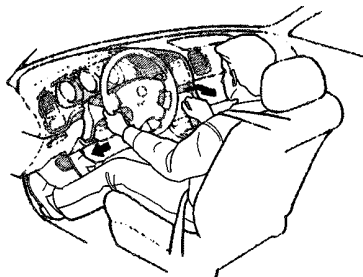
You cannot shift out of Park with the brake pedal depressed when the ignition switch is in LOCK (0) or ACCESSORY (I).

CONTINUED

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. Move the shift lever to the right to shift out of the Park position.

If you have done all of the above and still cannot move the lever out of Park, see Shift Lock Release on page [169](#).



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.

Your car has a reverse lockout so you cannot accidentally shift to Reverse from Neutral or any other driving position when the vehicle speed exceeds 7 — 9 mph (12 — 14 km/h).

If you cannot shift to Reverse when the car is stopped, press the brake pedal and slowly shift to Neutral then to Reverse.

If there is a problem in the reverse lockout system, or your vehicle's battery is disconnected or goes dead, you cannot shift to Reverse. (Refer to Shift Lock Release on page [169](#)).

Automatic Transmission

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.

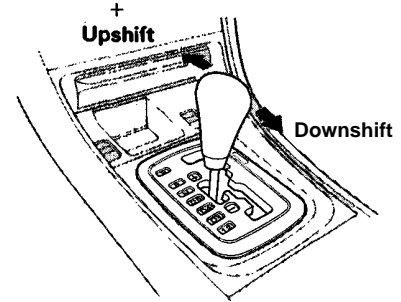
Drive (D5) — Use this position for your normal driving. The transmission automatically selects a suitable gear for your speed and acceleration. You may notice the transmission shifting up at higher speeds when the engine is cold. This helps the engine warm up faster.

Sequential SportShift Mode - With the shift lever in "D5" position, you can select the Sequential SportShift mode to shift gears; much like a manual transmission, but without a clutch pedal.

When the Sequential SportShift Mode is selected, the transmission will automatically upshift and downshift between first and second gear.

To enter the Sequential SportShift mode, slide the shift lever further to the left. To return to "D5", slide the shift lever to the right.

When you move the shift lever from "D5" to the Sequential SportShift mode, the display shows the selected gear.



In the Sequential SportShift mode, each time you push forward on the shift lever, the transmission shifts to a higher gear. Pull back on the lever to downshift. The number of the gear selected is displayed next to the "D5" indicator (see page 162).

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Automatic Transmission

When you accelerate away from a stop, the transmission will start in first gear and then automatically upshift to second gear. You have to manually upshift between second and fifth gears. Make sure you upshift before the engine speed reaches the tachometer's red zone.

The transmission remains in the selected gear (5,4,3). There is no automatic downshift when you push the accelerator pedal to the floor.

The transmission may automatically downshift from the higher gear to the lower gear under the following conditions:

Driving on level roads and downhill

To shift from	Speed range
4 → 3	under 18 mph (29 km/h)
5 → 4	under 31 mph (50 km/h)

Driving uphill

To shift from	Speed range
4 → 3	under 34 mph (55 km/h)
5 → 4	under 47 mph (75 km/h)

Automatic Transmission

Downshifting gives you more power when climbing or provides engine braking when going down a steep hill.

The transmission will also shift automatically as the vehicle comes to a complete stop. It will downshift to first gear when the vehicle speed is under 9 mph (15 km/h).

If you try to manually downshift at a speed that would cause the engine to exceed the redline in a lower gear, the transmission will not downshift.

The gear indicator will flash the number of the lower gear several times, then return to the higher gear.

If the car speed slows to below the redline of the selected lower gear position while the indicator is flashing, the transmission will downshift and the display will show the selected lower gear.

If the transmission temperature is below 14 °F (-10 °C), you may not be able to use the Sequential SportShift mode.

The table shows the speed ranges for upshifting and downshifting.

To shift from	Speed range
2 → 3	over 9 mph (15 km/h)
3 → 4	over 18 mph (29 km/h)
4 → 5	over 31 mph (50 km/h)

To shift from	Speed range
3 → 2	under 60 mph (96 km/h)
4 → 3	under 93 mph (150 km/h)
5 → 4	under 140 mph (225 km/h)

CONTINUED

Automatic Transmission

Drive (D4, D3) — These positions are similar to D5, except when you select the D4 position, only the first four gears are selected. When you select D5, only the first three gears are selected. D4 can also keep the transmission from cycling between fourth and fifth gears in stop-and-go driving, and D3 can keep the transmission from cycling between third and fourth gears.

Use D3 when towing a trailer in hilly terrain, or to provide engine braking when going down a steep hill. D3 gives you more power and increased engine braking.

For faster acceleration when in D3 D4 or D5, you can get the transmission to automatically downshift by pushing the accelerator pedal to the floor. The transmission will shift down one or two gears, depending on your speed.

Second (2) — This position locks the transmission in second gear. It does not downshift to first gear when you come to a stop. Second gives you more power when climbing, and increased engine braking when going down steep hills. Use second gear when starting out on a slippery surface or in deep snow. It will help reduce wheelspin.

First (1) - With the lever in this position, the transmission locks in First gear.

If you shift into First position when the vehicle speed is above 31 mph (50 km/h), the transmission shifts into Second gear first to avoid sudden engine braking.

Engine Speed Limiter

If you exceed the maximum speed for the gear you are in, 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.

Shift Lock Release

This allows you to move the shift lever out of Park if the normal method of pushing on the brake pedal does not work. This procedure also releases the Reverse Lockout.

1. Set the Parking brake.
2. Make sure the key is in the ignition switch OFF (0) position.

To release the Reverse Lockout, make sure the key is in the ACCESSORY (I) position.

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