



What You Should Know About Maintaining Your Acura



Information About
Vehicle
Maintenance
for Acura
Clients

www.owners.Acura.com
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General Information

Why should you be concerned about vehicle maintenance and appearance?

With proper service and care as indicated by your instrument panel information display, or as described in the factory-recommended maintenance schedule in your owner's manual, your Acura will have:

- Continued reliability
- Longer vehicle life
- Better resale value

You'll have more confidence and peace of mind when you drive a properly maintained, top-performing vehicle.

Why should you service your vehicle at our Acura dealership?

Because we'll fix it right. You can drive your vehicle with the confidence of knowing that it has received the most up-to-date attention from well-trained Acura certified technicians.

1. We know your vehicle better than anyone else:

- Only dealership staff can get the most current training from Acura, and our skilled technicians keep up with the training as new models are released.
- We work on all Acura models, all years, and mileages so we're experts.
- Acura dealers have immediate access to a factory technical assistance team.

2. We use Acura Genuine parts and offer competitive prices:

- We use high-quality Acura parts, so you know they'll fit right, function properly, and last a long time.
- We maintain a large parts inventory and, in most cases, can get parts overnight.
- We regularly compare our prices with independent and chain store service outlets to make sure that our prices are competitive.

3. *We work with you to properly care for your vehicle.*

- At your request, we'll take a drive with you at the time you drop your vehicle off, and again when you pick it up. We want to ensure that you are completely satisfied.
- Acura monitors your responses to the client satisfaction survey you complete; if you are unhappy with our service, please tell your Service Consultant or the Service Manager *before you leave* so we can make it right.
- You can schedule service visits, view your maintenance schedule, shop for parts, and much more, all from the comfort of your home. Just visit us on Owner Link at: www.owners.Acura.com

4. *We value your continued business with our Acura dealership:*

- We do a quality control check on our warranty work so you can be assured that your vehicle has been fixed properly.
- We guarantee our maintenance and repair work. Also, we back our Acura Genuine replacement parts with a 12 month or 12,000 mile (whichever comes first) limited warranty.
- The limited warranty is good at any Acura dealership nationwide, so you can travel with confidence. If you need assistance locating a dealer, go to www.acura.com or give us a call at **(800) 382-2238**.

Why shouldn't you service your vehicle at a non-Acura shop?

Because you can't be sure it will be fixed properly, and there are other factors that should concern you, such as these "ifs":

- If the work being done isn't what Acura actually recommends for your vehicle, then you can't really compare its value and price with the same work done by an Acura dealer.
- If the non-Acura shop is using Acura Genuine parts, then *they're probably buying them from an Acura dealer anyway. And, the non-Acura shop is most likely paying retail rather than wholesale prices, which they mark-up and pass on to you.*

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- If the shop is not using Acura Genuine parts, then the quality of those parts may be questionable, and may jeopardize related warranty coverage (while your vehicle is still under warranty). It may reduce the reliability and effectiveness of the repair or maintenance.
 - If they say their mechanics are properly trained, how long ago was the training? Are they keeping up with the rapidly changing technology of Acura vehicles?
 - If the non-Acura shop isn't familiar with the latest recall, product update, and/or product improvement campaigns, they may not do the required work and you may not receive the *free warranty work* you may be entitled to.

What are the specific benefits of having our Service Department maintain your vehicle?

When we maintain your entire Acura, we reduce the likelihood that problems will occur. The service and maintenance helps to prevent breakdowns, minimizes unplanned repairs, and ultimately saves time, money, and gas. Plus, a well documented service history adds to the resale value of your vehicle.

For specific information about vehicle maintenance, refer to:

- The list starting on **page 4** describes maintenance that **may be** part of the maintenance minder or schedule in your owner's manual for either **normal conditions** or **severe conditions**. Check at the appropriate mileage interval on the owner's manual schedule (if applicable), and compare the items shown there to the applicable descriptions in this list.
- The list on **page 11** describes some non-scheduled maintenance items that would be identified for service, if needed, to properly maintain various vehicle systems.

For each *maintenance* item, the list describes how the maintenance is done (the *procedure*) and why it is important to you (the *benefit*).

MAINTENANCE	PROCEDURE	BENEFIT
<p>Air Conditioning (A/C) <i>Inspect compressor drive belt</i></p> <p><i>Replace micron filter</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for wear, cracks, and damage, and replace the belt if needed. • Measure the drive belt tension, and adjust it if needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the glove box*, and then remove the A/C air filter(s). • Install the new filter(s), and reinstall the glove box*. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guards against the belt slipping or failing. • Helps maintain proper A/C operation. • Prevents belt squeal. <p>Maintains effective A/C performance by ensuring free airflow through the filter.</p>
<p>Air Intake <i>Replace air cleaner element</i></p>	<p>Remove the air cleaner cover. Replace the air cleaner element, and reinstall the cover.</p>	<p>Allows proper airflow to the engine. Prevents these engine problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor fuel economy • Emissions test failure • Poor performance
<p>Alternator <i>Inspect drive belt</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for wear, cracks, and damage, and replace the belt if needed. • Measure the belt tension, and adjust it if needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guards against the belt slipping or failing. • Helps maintain proper alternator output. • Prevents belt squeal and a dead battery.
<p>Body <i>Lubricate</i></p>	<p>Apply correct lubricant to door locks and hinges, seals, door strikers, seat adjusters, window channels, and hood and trunk latches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces friction to minimize noise from body movement during turns and when driving over bumps. • Allows smoother operation of doors, trunk, and windows.

*If applicable

MAINTENANCE	PROCEDURE	BENEFIT
Body and Underbody <i>Inspect</i>	Check for scratches, stone chipping, dents, and paint damage from acid rain, bird droppings, tree sap, or bee pollen.	Discovers any damage to allow repair and/or repainting to maximize the life of the body and the underbody.
Brakes <i>Inspect discs, pads, and calipers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the wheels, and check the discs for wear, cracks, and damage. • Measure pad thickness, and check the calipers for free movement, damage, leaks, and tightness of mounting bolts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures proper operation of the brakes. • Determines condition of friction material so you can prevent brake pads from wearing down to the metal backing and damaging the disc.
<i>Inspect hoses and lines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check brake hoses for damage, leaks, interference with other parts, and twisting. • Check brake lines for damage, rust, leaks, and kinks. Check connections for leaks. 	Discovers leaks or damage to the brake system.
<i>Inspect system components</i>	Check the master cylinder, the proportioning control valve, and the anti-lock brake system (ABS) modulator for damage and leaks.	
<i>Replace brake fluid (including ABS)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drain the fluid from the brake master cylinder, and flush the system using new Acura Precision Crafted Brake Fluid. • Bleed each caliper. Then remove fluid, refill, and bleed the ABS. • Fill with Acura Precision Crafted Brake Fluid to between the marks on the reservoir. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps maintain proper hydraulic function of the brake system. • Removes moisture from the system. • Flushes contaminants from the solenoids. • Prevents internal corrosion.

MAINTENANCE	PROCEDURE	BENEFIT
Clutch <i>Inspect release arm travel (on non-self-adjusting clutch)</i>	Adjust the free play in the clutch cable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizes the life of the clutch. • Ensures smooth gear selection.
Cooling System <i>Inspect hoses and connections</i>	Check hoses and connections for cracks, leaks, looseness, damage, and deterioration.	Discovers deteriorated hoses or coolant leaks that could cause overheating and engine damage.
Cooling System <i>Replace engine coolant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drain and flush old coolant. • Acura Precision Crafted long life antifreeze/coolant type 2. • Check specific gravity for freezing point. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizes the life of the radiator, the engine, and the water pump. • Maintains the efficiency of the cooling system.
Differential <i>Replace front and rear axle gear lubricant</i>	Drain the gear lubricant from the differential, and refill it with the appropriate Acura Precision Crafted fluid. <i>See your owner's manual for the type of fluid used.</i>	Reduces friction to maintain smooth operation and prevent premature wear.
Engine <i>Replace oil and filter</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the engine drain plug, and drain the old oil. • Replace the oil filter (if required by the display/maintenance schedule). • Reinstall the plug with a new crush washer, and tighten the plug to the proper torque. • Install a new oil filter to the proper torque, and refill the engine with oil of the correct viscosity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizes the life of the engine by removing contaminants, preventing sludge buildup, and premature wear. • Replenishes anti-wear additives.

MAINTENANCE	PROCEDURE	BENEFIT
Exhaust System <i>Inspect</i> <i>Inspect heat shield</i>	Check exhaust pipe(s) and muffler(s) for damage, leaks, and tightness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovers leaks, and ensures that the exhaust system operates properly. • Helps to prevent emissions test failure.
	Check condition and tightness of the catalytic converter heat shield.	Prevents rattles, and protects your vehicle from heat that the converter produces.
Fluid Levels <i>Inspect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for leaks. • Check for correct level and proper condition of engine oil, differential and transfer case fluid, transmission fluid, clutch fluid, engine coolant, power steering fluid, brake fluid, and windshield washer fluid. 	Ensures that your vehicle has correct levels and proper conditions of fluids.
Fuel System <i>Replace fuel filter</i> <i>Inspect fuel lines, hoses, and connections</i>	Remove the old fuel filter, and install a new filter.	Maintains the flow of clean fuel by trapping particles that could cause poor performance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check fuel lines for cracks, leaks, loose connections, and deterioration. • Replace damaged parts, and tighten loose connections. 	Discovers leaks or damage, and allows repair to restore the integrity of the fuel system.
Idle <i>Inspect idle speed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the engine is at operating temperature, make sure that idle speed is within specifications. • Adjust the idle speed if needed (this process is computer controlled in newer vehicles). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps maximize fuel economy. • Helps prevent premature brake wear on vehicles with automatic transmission. • Prevents emissions control failure.

MAINTENANCE	PROCEDURE	BENEFIT
Lights <i>Inspect</i>	Check for proper aim and operation of the headlights, the other exterior lights, and all interior lights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovers burned out fuses or bulbs and/or wiring problems. • Allows repair to restore safe operation of the lighting system.
Parking Brake <i>Inspect and lubricate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the vehicle on a lift, and rotate the rear wheels by hand to make sure the brakes aren't dragging. • Adjust the parking brake adjuster to get proper free play, and lubricate the linkage. • If applying the parking brake requires more than the allowed number of clicks, check brake wear at the front or rear, as applicable. 	Ensures the parking brake is adjusted to the proper free play: too much play would prevent full application of the parking brake, and too little play could accelerate rear brake wear.
PCV Valve <i>Inspect</i>	Check the positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) valve, and clean out any contaminants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the possibility of oil leaks and/or erratic idle. • Prevents accelerated oil contamination.
Spark Plugs <i>Replace</i>	Remove old spark plugs, and replace them with new ones of the correct heat range and gap setting.	Maintains engine performance and emissions level.

MAINTENANCE	PROCEDURE	BENEFIT
<p>Steering <i>Inspect power steering system</i></p> <p><i>Inspect steering system components</i></p> <p><i>Inspect power steering pump drive belt</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test-drive to confirm proper operation. • Check the power steering fluid level. • Check the steering rack for leaks. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check tie-rod ends and boots, steering gearbox, and steering linkage for grease. • Check the fluid lines and the boots for damage and leaks. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for wear, cracks, and damage, and replace the belt if needed. • Measure the belt tension, and adjust it if needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovers leaks in the power steering system components and hoses. • Ensures proper system operation. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guards against the belt slipping or failing. • Prevents belt squeal. • Eliminates looseness, which can shorten belt life and reduce power steering assist.
<p>Suspension <i>Inspect components and mounting bolts</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check suspension bolts with a torque wrench to ensure proper tightness. • Check dust covers for deterioration and damage. 	<p>Helps prevent chassis noise.</p>
<p>Timing and Balancer Belts/Water Pump <i>Replace</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the timing belt (and, on some engines, the balancer belt). • Replace the water pump at the same time. 	<p>Avoids costly major engine repairs. A broken timing belt or water pump could cause damage to the engine valves, cylinder head, and pistons.</p>

MAINTENANCE	PROCEDURE	BENEFIT
Transaxle <i>Inspect driveshaft boots</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check inboard and outboard boots for cracks, leaks, splitting, and wear. • Check boot bands for tightness. 	Detection of leaks and damage allows replacement of boots to prevent contamination and failure of driveshaft joints.
Transmission <i>Replace transmission fluid</i>	Drain the old transmission fluid, and refill the transmission with Acura Precision Crafted Automatic Transmission Fluid ATF-Z1 or manual transmission fluid (MTF), as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximizes the life of the transmission. • Maintains shift quality.
Valve Clearance <i>Inspect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the engine cold, remove the valve cover. • Measure the valve clearances, and adjust them as needed. 	Prevents valve noise.
Wheels <i>Rotate tires</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the wheel/tire assemblies, and rotate them per the owner's manual or maintenance minder. • Check tire condition; adjust inflation as needed on all tires, including the spare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps to minimize uneven or excessive tire wear. • Maximize tire life and performance.

Additional Information

ITEM	INFORMATION	BENEFIT
Air Conditioning (A/C) <i>Inspect operation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the A/C is not cold enough, check for the proper temperature at air outlets. • If abnormal, check heater valve adjustment, check operating pressures, and recharge or repair the A/C system as needed. 	<p>Ensures proper operation of the A/C system for both cooling and defogging.</p>
Clutch <i>Inspect hoses and lines, replace fluid (on hydraulic clutch models)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the transmission grinds (clutch doesn't disengage completely during shifting), check hoses and lines for cracks, leaks, looseness, damage, and deterioration. • Flush and bleed the system with Acura Precision Crafted Brake Fluid. • Check wear and mechanical operation of the clutch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovers hydraulic fluid leaks at hoses or lines, which could cause clutch failure. • Replacing the fluid removes moisture from the hydraulic clutch actuator system to prevent internal corrosion.
Cooling System <i>Inspect radiator and A/C condenser cores</i>	<p>If the engine overheats or if leaking coolant is seen under the vehicle, check cores for damage, corrosion, and leaks.</p>	<p>Detection of leaks or corrosion minimizes damage to components.</p>
Wheels <i>Inspect front and rear wheel alignment</i>	<p>If tire tread wear is uneven or the vehicle "pulls" left or right, check front and rear wheel alignment for proper toe, caster, and camber.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures the wheels are properly aligned to minimize uneven or excessive tire wear. • Ensure the vehicle tracks down the road properly.

ITEM	INFORMATION	BENEFIT
<p>Steering <i>Inspect gear free play</i></p> <p><i>Replace power steering fluid</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for any free play in the steering wheel. • Use the special tool to adjust the steering gearbox if needed. <p>Drain old fluid, and fill with new fluid.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains steering tightness and accuracy. • Maximizes life of the gears by maintaining proper engagement of teeth. <p>Maximizes the life of steering system components by removing old or contaminated fluid.</p>
<p>Transfer Case <i>Replace fluid</i></p>	<p>Drain old transfer case fluid, and fill with correct level and type of fluid.</p>	<p>Maximizes the life of the transfer case components.</p>

Appearance Care

Regular cleaning and polishing of your Acura helps to keep it looking new. This section gives you recommendations on how to clean and preserve your vehicle's interior and exterior appearance (the paint, chrome, wheels, and interior). There are also several tips included to help prevent corrosion and/or premature wear.

AREA	RECOMMENDATION
Air Fresheners	<p>Both, solid and liquid air fresheners contain chemicals that may cause parts of the interior trim and fabric to crack and/or discolor. If you decide to use an air freshener/deodorizer in the interior of your vehicle, it is best to use a solid type. Be sure not allow the air fresheners to come in contact with the interior trim.</p> <p>If you use a liquid air freshener, make sure you fasten it securely so it does not spill as you drive.</p>
Body (Washing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequent washing helps preserve your vehicle. Dirt and grit can scratch the paint, tree sap and bird droppings can deteriorate and permanently ruin the finish.• Chemical solvents and strong cleaners can damage the paint, metal, and plastic on your vehicle. Only use the solvents and cleaners recommended in your owner's manual. <p style="text-align: right;">(continued on next page)</p>

AREA	RECOMMENDATION
Body (Washing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the body for road tar, tree sap, etc. Remove these stains with tar remover and turpentine. • Wash you vehicle in a shady area, not in direct sunlight. If the vehicle is parked in the sun, move it into the shade and let the exterior cool down before you start. • Rinse the vehicle thoroughly with cool water to remove loose dirt. • Fill a bucket with cool water. Mix in a mild detergent, such as non-antibacterial dishwashing liquid or a product made especailly for vehicle washing. • Wash the vehicle, using the water and detergent solution and a soft-bristle brush, sponge, or soft cloth. Start at the top and work your way down. • Rinse frequently. • Rinse if off immediately so it does not harm the finish. • When you have washed and rinsed the whole exterior, dry it with a chamois or soft towel. Letting it air-dry will cause dulling and water spots. • As you dry the vehicle, inspect it for chips and scratches. Repair them with touch up paint. • Re-wax areas where road tar, tree sap, etc. was removed even if the rest of the vehicle does not need waxing.

AREA	RECOMMENDATION
<p>Body (Waxing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always wash and dry the whole vehicle before waxing it. You should wax your vehicle, including the metal trim, whenever water sits on the surface in large patches. • Water should form into beads or droplets after waxing. • You should use a quality liquid or paste wax. Apply it according to the instructions on the container. <p>In general, there are two types of products:</p> <p><i>Waxes</i> – A wax coats the finish and protects it from damage by exposure to sunlight, air pollution, etc. You should use wax on your Acura when it is new.</p> <p><i>Polishes</i> – Polishes and cleaner/ waxes can restore the shine to paint that has oxidized and lost some of its shine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They normally contain mild abrasives and solvents that remove the top layer of the finish. You should use a polish on your Acura if the finish does not have its original shine after using a wax. • Cleaning tar, insects, treesap, etc. with removers also takes off the wax. Remember to re-wax those areas, even if the rest of the vehicle does not need waxing.
<p>Carpeting</p>	<p>Vacuum the carpeting frequently to remove dirt. Use a foam-type carpet cleaner. Follow the instructions that come with the cleaner, applying it with a sponge or soft brush. Keep the carpeting as dry as possible by not adding water to the foam.</p>
<p>Corrosion Protection</p>	<p>Two factors normally contribute to causing corrosion in your vehicle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moisture trapped in body cavities. Dirt and road salt that collects in hollows on the underside of the vehicle stays damp, promoting corrosion in that area. 2. Removal of paint and protective coatings from the exterior and underside of the vehicle. <p style="text-align: right;">(continued on next page)</p>

AREA	RECOMMENDATION
Corrosion Protection	<p>Many corrosion-preventive measures are built into your vehicle. You can help minimize corrosion by performing some simple periodic maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair any nicks, chips, and/or scratches in the paint as soon as you discover them. • Inspect and clean out the drain holes in the bottom of the doors and body. • Check the floor coverings for dampness. Carpeting and floor mats may remain damp for a long time, especially in the winter. Dampness can cause floor panels to corrode. • Use a high-pressure spray to clean the underside of your vehicle. This is especially important in areas that use road salt in the winter. It is also a good idea in humid climates and areas subject to salt air. • Have the corrosion-preventive coatings on the underside of your vehicle inspected periodically, and repair if needed.
Fabric	<p>Vacuum dirt and dust out of the material frequently. For general cleaning, use a solution of mild soap and lukewarm water, letting it air dry. To clean off hard to remove spots, use a commercially available fabric cleaner. Test it on a hidden area of fabric first, to make sure it does not bleach or stain the fabric. Follow the instructions that come with the cleaner.</p>
Paint, Touch-up	<p>Your Acura dealer has touch-up paint to match the vehicle's color. Contact your dealer so you are sure to get the correct color.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect your vehicle for chipped or scratched paint every time you wash it. Repair it as soon as possible to prevent corrosion. • Use the touch-up paint on small chips and scratches. More extensive damage should be repaired by a professional. • Examine the chip or scratch closely before repairing it. If it does not go down to bare metal, clean it with soap and water, allow to dry completely, and then apply the touch-up paint.

AREA	RECOMMENDATION
Seat Belts	<p>If your seat belts get dirty, you can use a soft brush with a mixture of mild non-antibacterial soap and warm water to clean them. Do not use bleach, dye, or cleaning solvents. They can weaken the belt material.</p> <p>Let the belts air-dry before you use the vehicle. You can use a clothespin or binder clip type fastener to keep the belt extended until it dries.</p>
Vinyl	<p>Remove dirt and dust with a vacuum cleaner. Wipe the vinyl with a soft cloth dampened in a solution of mild soap and water. Use the same solution with a soft-bristle brush on more difficult spots. You can also use commercially available spray or foam-type vinyl cleaners.</p>
Wheels, Alloy	<p>Clean your Acura's aluminum alloy wheels as you do the rest of the exterior. Only use a mild non-antibacterial detergent and soft brush or sponge to clean the wheels, and rinse them thoroughly.</p> <p>The wheels have a protective clear-coat that keeps the aluminum from corroding and tarnishing. Using harsh chemicals, including some commercial wheel cleaners, or stiff brushes can damage this clear-coat.</p>
Windows	<p>Clean the windows, inside and out, with a commercially available glass cleaner. You can also use a mixture of one part white vinegar to ten parts water. This will remove the haze that builds up on the inside of the windows. Use a soft cloth or paper towels to clean all glass and clear plastic surfaces.</p> <p>The rear window defogger wires are bonded to the inside of the glass. Wiping vigorously up-and-down can dislodge and break the defogger wires. When cleaning the rear window, use gentle pressure and wipe side-to-side.</p>

