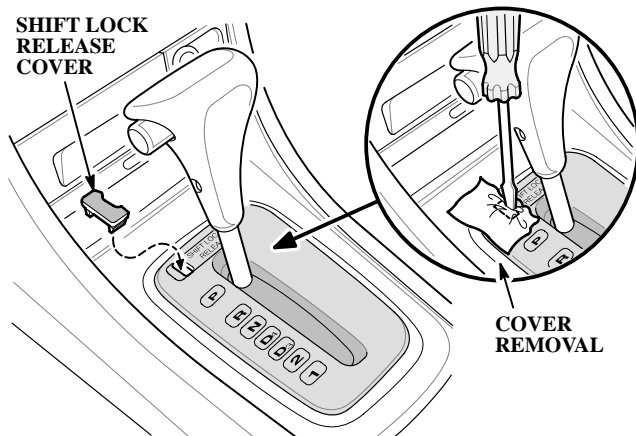




Shift Lock Release Cover on '99 Integras

On late-production '99 Integras, a small cover fits into the shift lock release slot on the shift indicator panel. Early '99 models had a slot, but no cover. When you do a TQI on an Integra, make sure the cover is installed. If it's not, remove it from the plastic bag in the glove box, and press it into place. If you can't find the cover, order another one (P/N 54714-S04-A71).

To remove the cover without damaging it, place a cloth over it, then carefully pry up the edge with a small, flat-tipped screwdriver.



Starter Relay Buzz

If the ignition switch is turned very slowly when cranking the engine (all models except SLX), you may hear a buzz from the starter relay. Don't try to fix it; there's nothing wrong. Just tell the customer to turn the switch a little faster, and the relay won't buzz.



Wheel Balancing Tips

Before you balance the wheels on any vehicle, follow these tips:

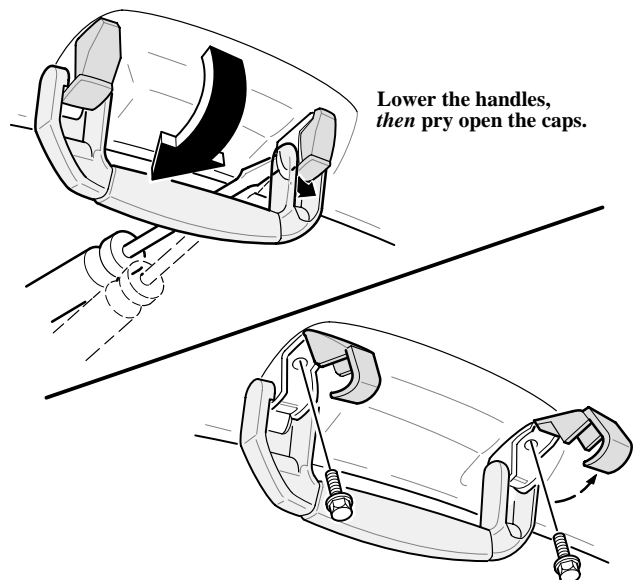
- Find out why the wheel balance is needed. Is it just routine maintenance, or are you trying to solve a complaint like steering wheel, tire, or front end vibration? If it's a complaint, ask the customer about the driving conditions that produce the complaint.
- Before you drive the vehicle to diagnose the complaint, make sure the tires are inflated to the correct pressure. Check the door sticker or Owner's Manual. Don't use the maximum inflation rate shown on the tire's sidewall.
- Drive the vehicle far enough to warm the tires and eliminate any flat spots. During the drive, reproduce the complaint conditions; this way, you're more likely to find out if balancing the wheels will fix the problem.



Pull Grab Handle Down *Before* Removal

This may sound simple, but it'll save you some grief: To remove the grab handles on a '99 3.2TL, pull down the handles *before* you pop open the bolt covers. A lot of techs pop the covers with the handle up. Big mistake. If you do this, you'll break the bolt covers, which means you've trashed the handle.

Let everyone in your shop know about this easily avoidable problem, and we'll revise the '99-00 S/M to make the handle removal clearer.





How to Avoid Refrigerant Contamination

One of the worst (and most expensive) things you can do to your supply of R-12 and R-134a is to contaminate it with non-approved refrigerant. It's easier to do than you'd think. Here's a typical scenario:

After inspecting the overall condition of an R-12 system, you hook up your gauges and find that both the high and low sides are too low. Your recommendation: Recover the refrigerant, evacuate the system for 15 minutes, then recharge with R-12.

But then the mistake: You recover the refrigerant without knowing what kind it is. What if it's R-22 or even propane? If you put anything but R-12 into the supply tank, you'll ruin the R-12 inside. The same holds true for R-134a, except that paying for a new tank of R-12 is a bigger bite out of your paycheck!

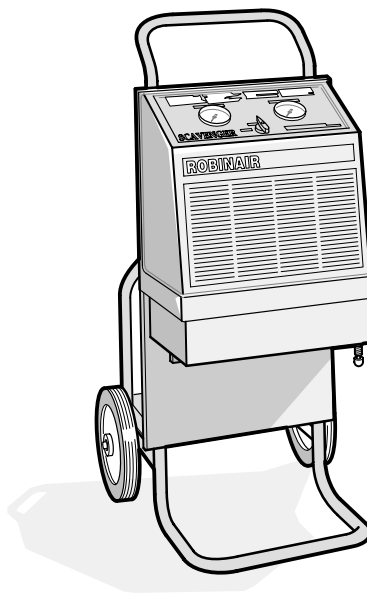
Here's an easy way to avoid contamination: Use an A/C refrigerant analyzer. Not only does an analyzer let you know the percentage of R-12 or R-134a in a vehicle's A/C system, it'll also check the cleanliness of refrigerant tanks purchased by your dealer.

A good refrigerant gas analyzer is the Yokogawa #YGK-GA500. To use the analyzer, just follow the instructions that come with it.



If you do find contaminated refrigerant in an A/C system, you'll need to remove it using a separate recovery unit with a tank used only for contaminated refrigerant. (Ask your local recycler for info on contaminated refrigerant disposal.)

To recover contaminated refrigerant, use a separate unit like the Scavenger refrigerant recovery station, model No. ROB-17680A. The Scavenger runs on shop air, not on electricity. This reduces the hazard if you recover potentially flammable vapors.



Both the Yokogawa refrigerant gas analyzer and the Scavenger refrigerant recovery station are available through the Acura Tool and Equipment Program. To order them, call 888-424-6857.



Time to Review Your A/C Training Info

Now that things are heating up, keep your customers cool by staying up-to-speed on your A/C knowledge. A good start would be to review the info in the A/C training module binder we sent to your service manager last fall. Even though the module recertification period is over, reviewing the A/C info is a great way to brush up your skills. Plus, if you're planning to visit the training center, reviewing the A/C modules beforehand will help you maximize your training center time.

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