



FORESTER

1 9 9 9 O W N E R ' S M A N U A L

Wear Seat Belts at All Times for Your Own Safety.

Foreword

Congratulations on choosing a SUBARU vehicle. This Owner's Manual has all the information necessary to keep your SUBARU in excellent condition and to properly maintain the emission control system for minimizing emission pollutants. We urge you to read this manual carefully so that you may understand your vehicle and its operation. For information not found in this Owner's Manual, such as details concerning repairs or adjustments, please contact the dealer from whom you purchased your SUBARU or the nearest SUBARU dealer.

The information, specifications and illustrations found in this manual are those in effect at the time of printing. FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD. reserves the right to change specifications and designs at any time without prior notice and without incurring any obligation to make the same or similar changes on vehicles previously sold. This Owner's Manual applies to all models and covers all equipment, including factory installed options. Some explanations, therefore may be for equipment not installed in your vehicle.

Please leave this manual in the vehicle at the time of resale. The next owner will need the information found herein.

FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD., TOKYO, JAPAN

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Warranties

■ Warranties for U.S.A.

All SUBARU vehicles distributed by Subaru of America, Inc. and sold at retail by an authorized SUBARU dealer in the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii come with the following warranties:

- SUBARU Limited Warranty
- Emission Control Systems Warranty
- Emissions Performance Warranty

All warranty information, including details of coverage and exclusions, is in the Warranty and Maintenance Booklet. Please read these warranties carefully.

■ Warranties for Canada

All SUBARU vehicles distributed by Subaru Canada, Inc. and sold at retail by an authorized SUBARU dealer in Canada come with the following warranties:

- SUBARU Limited Warranty
- Anti-Corrosion Warranty
- Emission Control Warranty

All warranty information, including details of coverage and exclusions, is in the Warranty and Service Booklet. Please read these warranties carefully.

How to use this owner's manual

■ Using your Owner's manual

Before you operate your vehicle, carefully read this manual. To protect yourself and extend the service life of your vehicle, follow the instructions in this manual. Failure to observe these instructions may result in serious injury and damage to your vehicle.

This manual is composed of thirteen chapters. Each chapter begins with a brief table of contents, so you can usually tell at a glance if that chapter contains the information you want.

Chapter 1: Doors and Locks

This chapter informs you how to operate the keys, locks and windows.

Chapter 2: Seat, seat belt and SRS AIRBAG

This chapter informs you how to use the seat and seat belt and contains precautions for the SRS AIRBAG.

Chapter 3: Instruments and controls

This chapter informs you about the operation of instrument panel indicators and how to use the instruments and other switches.

Chapter 4: Climate Control

This chapter informs you how to operate the climate control.

Chapter 5: Audio

This chapter informs you how to operate your audio system.

Chapter 6: Interior equipment

This chapter informs you how to operate interior equipment.

Chapter 7: Starting and operating

This chapter informs you how to start and operate your SUBARU.

Chapter 8: In case of emergency

This chapter informs you what to do if you have a problem while driving, such as a flat tire or engine overheating.

Chapter 9: Appearance care

This chapter informs you how to keep your SUBARU looking good.

Chapter 10: Maintenance and service

This chapter informs you how to keep your SUBARU running properly.

Chapter 11: Specifications

This chapter informs you about dimension and capacities of your SUBARU.

Chapter 12: Consumer information and Reporting safety defects

This chapter informs you about Uniform tire quality grading standards and Reporting safety defects.

Chapter 13: Index

This is an alphabetical listing of all that's in this manual. You can use it to quickly find something you want to read.

■ Safety warnings

You will find a number of WARNINGS, CAUTIONS and NOTES in this manual.

These safety warnings alert you to potential hazards that could result in injury to you or others.

Please read these safety warnings as well as all other portions of this manual carefully in order to gain a better understanding of how to use your SUBARU vehicle safely.



WARNING

A WARNING indicates a situation in which serious injury or death could result if the warning is ignored.



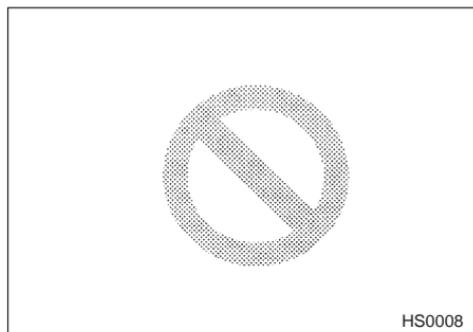
CAUTION

A CAUTION indicates a situation in which injury or damage to your vehicle, or both, could result if the caution is ignored.

NOTE

A NOTE gives information or suggestions how to make better use of your vehicle.

■ Safety symbol



You will find a circle with a slash through it in this manual. This symbol means “Do not”, “Do not do this”, or “Do not let this happen”.

Safety precautions when driving

SEAT BELT AND SRS AIRBAG

WARNING

- All persons in the vehicle should fasten their seat belts **BEFORE** the vehicle starts to move. Otherwise, the possibility of serious injury becomes greater in the event of a sudden stop or accident.
- To obtain maximum protection in the event of an accident, the driver and all passengers in the vehicle should always wear seat belts when the vehicle is moving. The SRS (Supplemental Restraint System) AIRBAG does not do away with the need to fasten seat belts. In combination with the seat belts, it offers the best combined protection in case of a serious accident. Not wearing a seat belt increases the chance of severe injury or death in a crash even when the car has the SRS AIRBAG.
- The SRS AIRBAGs deploy with considerable speed and force. Occupants who are out of proper position when the SRS AIRBAG deploys could suffer very serious injuries. Because the SRS

AIRBAG needs enough space for deployment, the driver should always sit upright and well back in the seat as far from the steering wheel as practical while still maintaining full vehicle control and the front passenger should move the seat as far back as possible and sit upright and well back in the seat.

Carefully read the sections 3-point Type Seat Belts, 2-point Type Seat Belts and SRS AIRBAG in chapter 2 of this owner's manual for instructions and precautions concerning the seat belt system and SRS AIRBAG system.

CHILD SAFETY



WARNING

- **Never hold a child on your lap or in your arms while the vehicle is moving. The passenger cannot protect the child from injury in a collision, because the child will be caught between the passenger and objects inside the vehicle.**
- **While riding in the vehicle, infants and small children should always be placed in an infant or child restraint system in the REAR seat which is appropriate for the child's age, height and weight. If a child is too big for a child restraint system, the child should sit in the REAR seat and be restrained using the seat belts.**

According to accident statistics, children are safer when properly restrained in the rear seating positions than in the front seating positions. Never allow a child to stand up or kneel on the seat.

- **Put children aged 12 and under in the REAR seat properly restrained at all times in a child restraint device or in a seat belt. The SRS AIRBAG deploys with considerable speed and force and can injure or even kill children, especially if they are 12 years of age and under and are not restrained or improperly restrained. Because children are lighter and weaker than adults, their risk being injured from deployment is greater.**

● NEVER INSTALL A REARWARD FACING CHILD SEAT IN THE FRONT SEAT. DOING SO RISKS SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH TO

– CONTINUED –

THE CHILD BY PLACING THE CHILD'S HEAD TOO CLOSE TO THE SRS AIRBAG.

- Always use the child safety locks whenever a child rides in the rear seat. Serious injury could result if a child accidentally opened the door and fell out. Refer to the Door Lock section in chapter 1.
- Always lock the passenger's windows using the lock switch when children are riding in the vehicle. Failure to follow this procedure could result in injury to a child operating the power window. Refer to the Power Window section in chapter 1.
- Never leave unattended children in the vehicle. They could accidentally injure themselves or others through inadvertent operation of the vehicle. Also, on hot or sunny days, temperature in a closed vehicle could quickly become high enough to cause severe or possibly fatal injuries to them.

Carefully read the sections Child Restraint System, SRS AIRBAG, 3-point Type Seat Belts and 2-point Type Seat Belts in chapter 2 of this owner's manual for instructions and precautions concerning the child restraint system, seat belt system and SRS AIRBAG system.

ENGINE EXHAUST GAS (CARBON MONOXIDE)

WARNING

- Never inhale engine exhaust gas. Engine exhaust gas contains carbon monoxide, a colorless and odorless gas which is dangerous, or even lethal, if inhaled.
- Always properly maintain the engine exhaust system to prevent engine exhaust gas from entering the vehicle.
- Never run the engine in a closed space, such as a garage, except for the brief time needed to drive the vehicle in or out of it.
- Avoid remaining in a parked vehicle for a lengthy time while the engine is running. If that is unavoidable, then use the ventilation fan to force fresh air into the vehicle.
- Always keep the front ventilator inlet grille free from snow, leaves or other obstructions to ensure that the ventilation system always works properly.

- If at any time you suspect that exhaust fumes are entering the vehicle, have the problem checked and corrected as soon as possible. If you must drive under these conditions, drive only with all windows fully open.
- Keep the trunk lid or rear gate closed while driving to prevent exhaust gas from entering the vehicle.

DRINKING AND DRIVING



WARNING

Drinking and then driving is very dangerous. Alcohol in the bloodstream delays your reaction and impairs your perception, judgment and attentiveness. If you drive after drinking – even if you drink just a little – it will increase the risk of being involved in a serious or fatal accident, injuring or killing yourself, your passengers and others. In addition, if you are injured in the accident, alcohol may increase the severity of that injury.

Please don't drink and drive.

Drunken driving is one of the most frequent causes of accidents. Since alcohol affects all people differently, you may have consumed too much alcohol to drive safely even if the level of alcohol in your blood is below the legal limit. The safest thing you can do is never drink and drive. However if you have no choice but to drive, stop drinking and sober up completely before getting behind the wheel.

DRUGS AND DRIVING



WARNING

There are some drugs (over the counter and prescription) that can delay your reaction time and impair your perception, judgment and attentiveness. If you drive after taking them, it may increase your, your passengers' and other persons' risk of being involved in a serious or fatal accident.

If you are taking any drugs, check with your doctor or pharmacist or read the literature that accompanies the medication to determine if the drug you are taking can impair your driving ability. Do not drive after taking any medications that can make you drowsy or otherwise affect your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. If you have a medical condition that requires you to take drugs, please consult with your doctor.

Never drive if you are under the influence of any illicit mind-altering drugs. For your own health and well-being, we urge you not to take illegal drugs in the first place and to seek treatment if you are addicted to those drugs.

DRIVING WHEN TIRED OR SLEEPY



WARNING

When you are tired or sleepy, your reaction will be delayed and your perception, judgment and attentiveness will be impaired. If you drive when tired or sleepy, your, your passengers' and other persons' chances of being involved in a serious accident may increase.

Please do not continue to drive but instead find a safe place to rest if you are tired or sleepy. On long trips, you should make periodic rest stops to refresh yourself before continuing on your journey. When possible, you should share the driving with others.

CAR PHONES AND DRIVING



CAUTION

A driver's use of a car phone can be distracting and if special care is not taken, can lead to an accident. If you use a car phone while driving, make an extra effort to pay attention to the road and to traffic at all times.

MODIFICATION OF YOUR VEHICLE



CAUTION

Your vehicle should not be modified. Modification could affect its performance, safety or durability, and may even violate governmental regulations. In addition, damage or performance problems resulting from modification may not be covered under warranties.

DRIVING WITH PETS

Unrestrained pets can interfere with your driving and distract your attention from driving. In a collision or sudden stop, unrestrained pets or cages can be thrown around inside the vehicle and hurt you or your passengers. Besides, the pets can be hurt under these situations. It is also for their own safety that pets should be properly restrained in your vehicle. Restrain a pet with a special traveling harness which can be secured to the rear seat with a seat belt or use a pet carrier which can be secured to the rear seat by routing a seat belt through the carrier's handle. Never restrain pets or pet carriers in the front passenger's seat. For further information, consult your veterinarian, local animal protection society or pet shop.

Table of contents

<i>Doors and locks</i>	1
<i>Seat, seatbelt and SRS AIRBAG</i>	2
<i>Instruments and controls</i>	3
<i>Climate control</i>	4
<i>Audio</i>	5
<i>Interior equipment</i>	6
<i>Starting and operating</i>	7
<i>In case of emergency</i>	8
<i>Appearance care</i>	9
<i>Maintenance and service</i>	10
<i>Specifications</i>	11
<i>Consumer information and Reporting safety defects</i>	12
<i>Index</i>	13

A	
ABS (Anti-Lock Brake system)	7-30
ABS warning light	3-12
Accessory power socket	6-19
AIRBAG	2-29
Precautions against vehicle modification	2-39
SRS AIRBAG system operation	2-33
System monitors	2-37
System servicing	2-38
Vehicle with driver's and front passenger's SRS AIRBAGs and lap/shoulder restraints	2-29
AIRBAG warning light	3-8
Air conditioner (Heating and air conditioning)	4-3
Air cleaner element (Replacement)	10-16
Alcohol and driving	vii
All wheel drive vehicles (Driving tips for AWD vehicles)	7-33
Aluminum wheels (If equipped) (Maintenance)	10-42
Aluminum wheels (If equipped) (Cleaning)	9-6
AM/FM stereo radio with cassette player	5-4
RADIO OPERATION	5-4
CASSETTE PLAYER OPERATION	5-10
CLOCK FUNCTION	5-12
Antenna	5-2
Anti-lock brake system	7-30
Ashtray (If equipped)	6-23
AT OIL TEMPerature warning light	3-13
Automatic transmission	7-18
Driving tips	7-21
Maximum speeds	7-21
Selector lever	7-19
Shift lock release	7-21
Automatic transmission fluid (Maintenance)	10-21
B	
Back-up light (Rear combination lights, bulb replacement)	10-50
Battery (Maintenance)	10-31

Brake (Tips for using brakes)	7-28
Brake booster (Maintenance)	10-30
Brake fluid (Maintenance)	10-28
Brake system warning light	3-9
Brake pedal (Maintenance)	10-36
Brake pad and lining (Maintenance)	10-38
Break-in (New vehicle break-in driving)	7-3
Bulb chart	11-7
Bulb replacement	10-47
C	
Carbon monoxide (Engine exhaust gas)	7-7
Cargo anchorage eyelets	6-29
Cargo area cover (Luggage cover)	6-26
Cargo hooks (Cargo anchorage eyelets)	6-29
Cargo room light (Luggage area light)	6-26
Car phones and driving	viii
Cassette player operation (AM/FM stereo radio with cassette player)	5-10
Catalytic converter	7-8
Center console	6-5
Charge warning light	3-9
CHECK ENGINE warning light/Malfunction indicator lamp	3-10
Child restraint system	2-23
Installing child restraint system in the 3-point type seatbelt seating position	2-26
Installing child restraint system in the 2-point type seatbelt seating position	2-25
Top strap anchors	2-27
Child safety	v
Cigarette lighter (if equipped)	6-21
Cleaning aluminum wheels	9-6
Cleaning the interior	9-5
Seat fabric	9-5
Synthetic leather upholstery	9-6
Clock	5-12, 6-9

Clock function (built in cassette stereo)	5-12
Clutch fluid (Maintenance)	10-29
Clutch pedal (Manual transmission) (Maintenance)	10-37
Coin tray	6-7
Combination meter	3-4
Console (Center console)	6-5
Coolant (Engine coolant)	10-12
Corrosion protection	9-4
Cruise control (if equipped)	7-24
To change the cruising speed	7-25
To set cruise control	7-24
To temporarily cancel the cruise control	7-25
To turn off the cruise control	7-25
Cup holder	6-7

D

Defogging (Windshield)	4-4, 4-8
Defogging (Rear window defogger)	3-25
Defogging (Outside mirror defogger)	3-28
Differential gear oil (Front — AT vehicles) (Maintenance)	10-23
Differential gear oil (Rear — AWD vehicles) (Maintenance)	10-24
Dome light (Interior light)	6-24
Door locks	1-3
Child safety locks	1-7
Locking and unlocking from the inside	1-5
Locking and unlocking from the outside	1-3
Power door locking switches	1-6
Door open warning light	1-8, 3-13
Drive belts (Maintenance)	10-19
Driving drunken	vii
Driving in foreign countries	7-10
Driving in winter season	7-37
Driving off road	7-34
Driving tips for AWD vehicles	7-33
Driving when tired or sleepy	viii
Driving with pet	ix

E

Emission test (State emission testing)	7-5
Engine compartment	10-5
Engine coolant (Maintenance)	10-12
Engine exhaust gas (Carbon monoxide)	7-7
Engine hood	1-28
Engine malfunction indicator lamp (CHECK ENGINE warning light)	3-10
Engine oil (Maintenance)	10-6
Engine overheating	8-2
If no steam is coming from the engine compartment	8-3
If steam is coming from the engine compartment	8-2
Engine, transmission, and differential gear oil leaks (Maintenance)	10-6
Exhaust gas (Engine exhaust gas)	7-7
Exterior care	9-2
Washing	9-2
Waxing and polishing	9-3

F

Flat tires	8-6
Changing a flat tire	8-6
Tire changing tools	8-10
Fog light (Bulb replacement)	10-49
Fog light switch	3-18
Four wheel drive vehicles (Driving tips for AWD vehicles)	7-33
Front differential gear oil (Automatic transmission) (Maintenance) ..	10-23
Front seats	2-2
Fore and aft adjustment	2-4
Head restraint adjustment	2-5
Lumbar support	2-6
Seat cushion angle and height adjustment	2-5
Reclining the seatback	2-5
Seat heater	2-7
Front wheel drive warning light	3-13
Fuel economy hints	7-9
Fuel filler door and cap	1-26

Fuel filler cap	1-27
To open and close the fuel filler door	1-26
Refueling	1-27
Fuel gauge	3-6
Low fuel warning light	3-7
Fuel requirements	7-3
Fuel octane rating	7-3
Unleaded gasoline	7-4
Gasoline for California-certified TELV	7-4
Gasoline for cleaner air	7-4
Fuel tank capacity (Specifications)	11-2
Fluid (Automatic transmission fluid)	10-21
Fluid (Brake fluid)	10-28
Fluid (Clutch fluid)	10-29
Fluid (Power steering fluid)	10-26
Fuses (Replacing a fuse)	10-43
Fuses and circuits	11-4
Fuse panel located in the engine compartment	11-6
Fuse panel located behind the coin tray	11-4

G

Gauges	3-5
Fuel gauge	3-6
Odometer/Trip meter	3-5
Speedometer	3-5
Tachometer	3-6
Temperature gauge	3-7
Gauge pack (option)	6-10
Gasoline (Fuel requirement)	7-3
Gas tank capacity (Specifications)	11-2
Glove compartment	6-4
Glove box (Glove compartment)	6-4
GVWR and GAWR (Gross vehicle weight rating and Gross axle weight rating)	7-44

H

Hazard warning flasher	3-14, 8-2
Heater (Heating and air conditioning)	4-3
Heater (Seat heater)	2-7
Heater (Mirror heater = Outside mirror defogger)	3-28
Heating and air conditioning	4-3
Air conditioner button (if equipped)	4-4
Air flow control dial	4-3
Air inlet selection lever	4-4
Fan speed control lever	4-3
Temperature control dial	4-3
HEATER OPERATION	4-4
Bi. level heating	4-6
Defrosting or defogging the windshield	4-4
Heating and defrosting	4-5
Heating	4-6
Ventilation	4-7
AIR CONDITIONER OPERATION	4-8
Cooling or dehumidifying	4-8
Defrosting or defogging	4-8
OPERATING TIPS FOR HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING	4-9
Head light (Lighting switch)	3-14
Head light (Bulb replacement)	10-48
Head restraint	2-5
High beam indicator	3-13
High mount stop light (Bulb replacement)	10-54
Hood (Engine hood)	1-28
Horn	3-26

I

Ignition switch	7-10
ACC	7-12
Key interlock release (AT vehicles only)	7-13
Key reminder chime	7-13
LOCK	7-11
ON	7-12

START	7-12
Illumination brightness control	3-17
I/M test (Inspection Maintenance test) (State emission testing)	7-5
Interior (Cleaning the interior)	9-5
Installation of accessories	5-13, 10-46
Instrument panel overview	3-2
Interior light	6-24
Interior light (Bulb replacement)	10-53

J

Jack and handle	8-10
Jump starting	8-3

K

Key interlock (Key interlock release)	7-13
Keyless entry system	1-8
Key reminder chime	7-13
Keys	1-2
Key number	1-2
Master, submaster and valet key	1-2

L

License plate light (Bulb replacement)	10-52
Light (Interior light)	6-24
Light control	3-14
Fog light switch	3-18
Illumination brightness control	3-17
Light switch	3-14
Parking light switch	3-18
Lock (Door Lock)	1-3
Lock (Child safety locks)	1-7
Lock (Power door locking switches)	1-6
Low fuel warning light	3-7
Luggage area light	6-26
Luggage area light (Bulb replacement)	10-53
Luggage cover (if equipped)	6-26

Luggage floor storage tray	6-30
Loading your vehicle	7-42
Vehicle capacity weight	7-43
GVWR and GAWR	7-44
Lumbar support	2-6
M	
Main fuse and fusible link	10-46
Maintenance precautions	10-3
Before checking or servicing in the engine compartment ..	10-4
When you do the checking or servicing in the engine compartment while the engine is running	10-4
Maintenance tools	6-32
Malfunction indicator lamp (CHECK ENGINE warning light)	3-10
Manual transmission	7-16
Driving tips	7-17
Maximum speeds	7-17
Shifting speed for fuel economy	7-17
Manual transmission oil (Maintenance)	10-20
Meter (Combination meter)	3-4
Fuel gauge	3-6
Odometer/Tripmeter	3-5
Speedometer	3-5
Tachometer	3-6
Temperature gauge	3-7
Mirrors	3-26
Inside mirror	3-26
Outside mirrors	3-27
Remote controlled rearview mirror	3-28
Outside mirror defogger	3-28
Mirrors (Vanity mirror)	6-3
N	
New vehicle break-in driving	7-3

O	
Odometer	3-5
Oil (Engine oil)	10-6
Oil (Manual transmission oil)	10-20
Oil (Front differential oil)	10-23
Oil (Rear differential oil)	10-24
Oil filter (Engine oil)	10-7
Oil pressure warning light	3-9
Overheat (Engine overheating)	8-2

P	
Parking brake	7-26
Parking brake stroke (Maintenance)	10-39
Parking your vehicle	7-26
Parking brake	7-26
Parking tips	7-27
Parking light switch	3-18
Parking light (Bulb replacement)	10-50
Periodic inspections	7-10
Pets and driving	ix
Power door locking switches (if equipped)	1-6
Power socket (Accessory power socket)	6-19
Power steering	7-23
Power steering fluid (Maintenance)	10-26
Power windows	1-22
Power windows switch cluster (Driver's side)	1-22
Front passenger's switch	1-24
Rear passenger's switches	1-24
Preparing to drive	7-9

R	
Radio	5-2
Antenna	5-2
FM reception	5-4
Radio operation	5-4
AM/FM stereo radio with cassette player	5-4

Rear combination light (Bulb replacement)	10-51
Rear differential gear oil (AWD vehicles) (Maintenance)	10-24
Rear gate	1-25
Rear seats	2-8
Folding down the seatback	2-10
Head rest adjustment	2-10
Reclining the seatback	2-9
Rear view mirror	3-26
Rear window defogger switch	3-25
Rear window wiper and washer switch	3-22
Remote control mirror switch	3-28
Replacement of brake pad and lining	10-38
Brake pad	10-38
Parking brake lining	10-39
Replacement of windshield wiper blades	10-33
Replacing bulbs	10-47
Fog light	10-49
Front turn signal, parking light and front side marker light	10-50
Headlight	10-48
High mount stop light	10-54
Interior light and luggage compartment	10-53
License plate light	10-52
Rear combination lights	10-51
Reporting safety defects	12-4
Roof rail and crossbar / Roof rack	1-29
Rotation (Tire)	10-40
S	
Seat (Front seat)	2-2
Seat (Rear seat)	2-8
Seat belt safety tips	2-21
Children	2-21
Expectant mothers	2-22
Infant or small children	2-21
Maintenance	2-22
Seat fabric (Cleaning the interior)	9-5

Seat heater	2-7
Seatback (Reclining the seatback)	2-4, 2-9
Seat belts — 2-point type (lap only belts)	2-18
Fastening the seat belt	2-19
Unfastening the belt	2-20
Seat belts — 3-point type (combination lap/shoulder belts)	2-12
Seat belt warning light and chime	2-14
ELR (Emergency Locking Retractor) function	2-14
ALR (Automatic Locking Retractor) function	2-14
Adjusting the shoulder belt anchor height	2-16
Fastening the seat belt	2-15
Unfastening the belt	2-16
Seat belt warning light and chime	2-14, 3-8
Security system	1-12
Selector lever (automatic transmission)	7-19
Shift lever (Manual transmission)	7-16
Shift lock release	7-21
Side marker light (Bulb replacement)	10-50
Snow tires (Winter driving)	7-40
Spark plugs (Maintenance)	10-18
Specifications	11-2
Capacities	11-2
Dimensions	11-2
Electrical system	11-2
Engine	11-2
Tires	11-3
Wheel alignment	11-3
Speedometer	3-5
Spotlight (if equipped)	6-25
Spotlight (Bulb replacement)	10-53
SRS AIRBAG	2-29
Precautions against vehicle modification	2-39
SRS AIRBAG system operation	2-33
System monitors	2-37
System servicing	2-38

Vehicle with driver's and front passenger's SRS AIRBAGs and lap/shoulder restraints	2-29
SRS AIRBAG warning light	3-8
Starting the engine	7-13
Automatic transmission vehicles	7-14
During cold weather below -4°F (-20°C)	7-15
Flooded engine	7-15
Manual transmission vehicles	7-14
Spare tire	8-11
Steering	7-23
Power steering	7-23
Tilt steering wheel	7-23
Step light (Bulb replacement)	10-55
Stopping the engine	7-16
Storage compartment	6-3
Center console	6-4
Coin tray	6-6
Dashboard storage compartment	6-5
Door storage compartment	6-5
Glove compartment	6-3
Storage tray (Luggage floor storage tray)	6-18
Sun visors	6-3
Vanity mirror (if equipped)	6-3
T	
Tachometer	3-6
Temperature gauge	3-7
Tips for using the brakes	7-28
ABS (Anti-Lock Brake System) (if equipped)	7-30
Brake system	7-29
Braking tips	7-28
Disc brake pad wear warning indicators	7-30
Tilt steering wheel	7-23
Tire (Uniformity tire quality grading standards)	12-2
Tire (Snow tires = Winter driving)	7-40
Tire chains (Winter driving)	7-41

Tire rotation (Tires and wheels)	10-40
Tires and wheels	10-40
Inspection and rotation	10-40
Tire size (Specifications)	11-3
Tool (Maintenance tools)	6-32
Tool (Tire changing tools)	8-10
Top strap anchor (Child restraint system)	2-27
Towing	8-12
Towing eyelet	8-14
Towing with all wheels on the ground	8-13
Towing with the front wheels raised off the ground	8-12
Transporting your vehicle using a flat-bed truck	8-12
Towing trailer	7-45
Trailer towing	7-45
Connecting a trailer	7-50
Maximum load limits	7-46
Trailer hitches	7-50
Trailer towing tips	7-53
Warranties and maintenance	7-45
Trip meter (Odometer/Tripmeter)	3-5
Turn signal indicator lights	3-13
Turn signal lever	3-14
Turn signal light (Bulb replacement — Front)	10-50
Turn signal light (Bulb replacement — Rear)	10-51

V

Vanity mirror	6-3
Vehicle identification	11-8
Ventilation	4-7
Ventilator	4-2
Vehicle capacity weight	7-43

U

Uniform tire quality grading standards	12-2
Treadwear	12-2
Traction A, B, C	12-2

Temperature A, B, C	12-3
W	
Warning and indicator lights	3-8
ABS warning light (for vehicles with ABS)	3-12
AT OIL TEMPERATURE warning light (for AT vehicles)	3-13
Brake system warning light	3-9
CHECK ENGINE warning light/Malfunction indicator lamp	3-10
Checking bulbs	3-8
Door open warning lights	3-13
Front-wheel drive warning light (for AT vehicles)	3-13
High beam indicator	3-13
Low fuel warning light (Fuel gauge)	3-7
Oil pressure warning light	3-9
Seat belt warning light and chime	3-8
SRS AIRBAG warning light	3-8
Washing (Exterior care)	9-2
Waxing (Exterior care)	9-3
Windows	1-22
Power window	1-22
Windshield washer fluid	10-32
Windshield wiper and washer switch	3-21
Winter driving	7-34
Corrosion protection	7-41
Driving on snowy and icy roads	7-39
Operation during cold weather	7-37
Rocking the vehicle	7-41
Snow tires	7-40
Tire chains	7-41
Wiper controls	3-19
Rear window wiper and washer switch	3-22
Windshield wipers and washer switch	3-21
Wiper deicer	3-23
Windshield wiper blades (Replacement)	10-33