



Applies To: **See VEHICLES AFFECTED**

September 19, 2003

Product Update: Timing Belt Auto-Tensioner Safety Recall: V6 Engine Water Pump Recall (Replaces 02-022, dated August 30, 2002)

BACKGROUND

Product Update: The timing belt tensioner is filled with oil to dampen oscillation. Due to a manufacturing problem, the tensioner oil can leak. If enough oil is lost, the timing belt loosens and causes engine noise.

Safety Recall: All vehicles not yet repaired under service bulletin 02-022, *Safety Recall: V6 Engine Water Pump*, are also eligible for this product update. They are identified on a separate campaign responsibility report. Effective immediately, discontinue the use of service bulletin 02-022, and use the repair and warranty information in this service bulletin instead.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

Timing Belt Auto-Tensioner Product Update:

2002 3.2TL:

From VIN 19UUA5...2A051141
thru end of production

2003 3.2TL:

From VIN 19UUA5...3A000001 thru
19UUA5...3A043888

2002 3.2CL:

From VIN 19UYA4...2A003900
thru end of production

2003 3.2CL:

From VIN 19UYA4...3A000001 thru
19UYA4...3A009883

2002 MDX:

From VIN 2HNYD1...2H505108 thru
2HNYD1...2H545156

Some vehicles affected by this product update are still in dealer inventory. These vehicles must be repaired before they are sold or leased.

Water Pump Safety Recall:

2003 3.2TL:

From VIN 19UUA5...3A030788 thru
19UUA5...3A035155

2003 3.2CL:

From VIN 19UYA4...3A007392 thru
19UYA4...3A008174

2002 MDX:

VIN 2HNYD1...2H534751

From VIN 2HNYD1...2H535893 thru
2HNYD1...2H538954

VIN 2HNYD1...2H539162

VIN 2HNYD1...2H539327

NOTE:

- You will receive two campaign responsibility reports; one for the timing belt auto-tensioner, and another for the auto-tensioner and the water pump.
- Not every vehicle in the listed ranges for the water pump safety recall requires repair, and some have already been repaired according to service bulletin 02-022. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify its eligibility by confirming at least one of these items:
 - The customer has a notification letter.
 - The vehicle is listed on one of your campaign responsibility reports.
 - The vehicle is shown as eligible on an iN VIN status inquiry.

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this product update. Customers will receive one of two notifications, based on whether the vehicle was already repaired according to service bulletin 02-022. Examples of the customer notifications are at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

One of two corrective actions is appropriate, based on whether the vehicle is affected by the water pump recall and, if so, if the recall has been done.

1. If the vehicle is affected by the recall and the repair has not been done, inspect the casting die number on the water pump housing. If the casting die number is "9," replace the water pump, the timing belt, and the timing belt auto-tensioner.
2. If the vehicle is not affected by the recall or it was already repaired, replace the timing belt auto-tensioner.

PARTS INFORMATION

Timing Belt Auto-Tensioner Kit (contains tensioner and dipstick tube O-ring): P/N 04140-P8E-000

Water Pump: P/N 19200-P8A-A03

Timing Belt: P/N 14400-P8A-A02

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Honda All Season Antifreeze/Coolant Type 2:
P/N OL999-9002

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

Timing Belt Auto-Tensioner Product Update

Replace timing belt auto-tensioner and center-punch VIN. (Includes inspection of water pump casting number, if necessary.)

Operation Number: 110159

Flat Rate Time: 2.0 hours

Failed Part: P/N 14520-P8E-A01

Defect Code: 5BU

Contention Code: P08

Template ID: 03-022A

Skill Level: Repair Technician

Water Pump Safety Recall

Inspect water pump casting number. Replace water pump, timing belt, and timing belt auto-tensioner. Center-punch VIN.

Operation Number: 110161

Flat Rate Time: 3.3 hours

Failed Part: P/N 19200-P8A-A03

Defect Code: 5BU

Contention Code: P10

Template ID: 03-022B

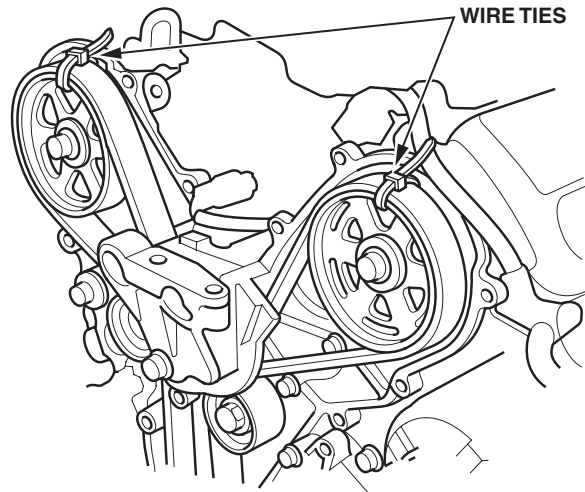
Skill Level: Repair Technician

REPAIR PROCEDURE

NOTE: If the timing belt has oil on it from the auto-tensioner, it does not need to be replaced for that reason alone. Residual oil from the tensioner does not affect timing belt performance.

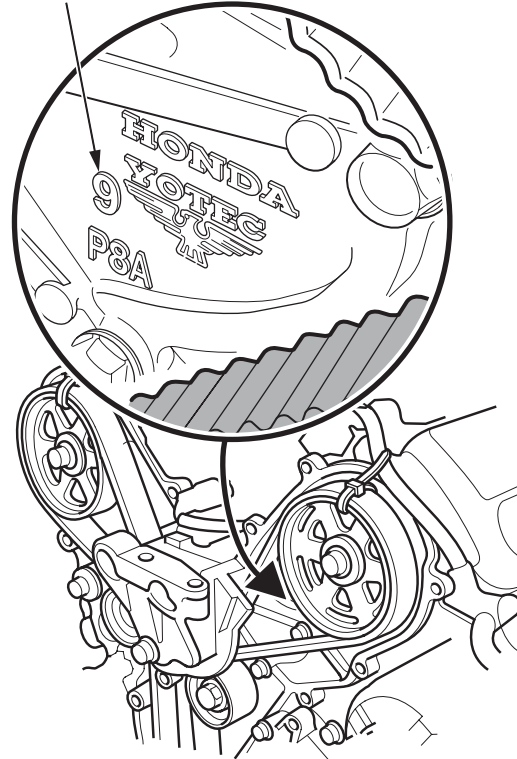
1. Find out if the vehicle is affected by the water pump recall and has not been repaired. (Do a VIN status inquiry and verify the customer has a notification letter.)
2. Follow steps 1 thru 12 of Timing Belt Removal in section 6 of the appropriate service manual.

3. Secure the timing belt to both cam pulleys using plastic wire ties. This helps to keep the timing belt in place while you replace the auto-tensioner.



4. Remove the timing belt auto-tensioner.
5. If the vehicle is affected by the water pump safety recall and has not been repaired, inspect the casting die number on the water pump housing.
 - If the casting die number is "9," go to step 6.
 - If the casting die number is any number other than "9," go to step 8.

CASTING DIE NUMBER



6. Remove the wire ties, and then drain the cooling system. Refer to section 10 of the appropriate service manual.
 7. Replace the water pump and the timing belt. Refer to section 6 and section 10 of the appropriate service manual.
 8. Install the new auto-tensioner. Refer to section 6 of the appropriate service manual.
- NOTE: Replace the dipstick tube O-ring.
9. Remove the pin from the auto-tensioner and the wire ties from the cam pulleys.
 10. Install the remaining parts in the reverse order of removal. Tighten all nuts and bolts to the specifications shown in the appropriate service manual.

NOTE: Overtightening the power steering belt will cause the power steering pulley to fail, so make sure to set the belt tension to the used belt specification. Refer to section 17 of the appropriate service manual.

11. If you replaced the water pump, the timing belt, and the auto-tensioner, center-punch completion marks above the second and the sixth characters of the engine compartment VIN. If you replaced only the auto-tensioner, center-punch a completion mark above the sixth character of the engine compartment VIN.

Water Pump, Timing Belt, and Auto-Tensioner:

Center-punch here.

↙ ↘

19UUA5XXXXXXXXXX

Auto-Tensioner Only:

Center-punch here.

↙

19UUA5XXXXXXXXXX

Example of Customer Letter

Customer Letter #1

September 2003

Product Update: Timing Belt Tensioner Safety Recall: Engine Water Pump

Dear Acura Owner:

We are sending this letter to notify you of a potential problem with your vehicle.

What is the problem?

Due to a manufacturing problem, the timing belt tensioner in your vehicle's engine can lose its oil. If enough oil is lost, the timing belt loosens and causes engine noise. In addition, your dealer will use this opportunity to inspect the water pump. (Our records indicate this safety recall inspection has not been done on your vehicle.)

What should you do?

Call any authorized Acura automobile dealer, and make an appointment to have your vehicle inspected and repaired. The dealer will inspect the water pump and, if it is defective, they will replace the water pump, the timing belt, and the timing belt tensioner. If the water pump is not defective, the dealer will replace only the timing belt tensioner. The inspection and all needed repairs will be done *free of charge*. Please plan to leave your vehicle all day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Acura dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Client Services Department
Mail Stop 500-2N-7E
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

Our records show that you are the current owner or lessee of a 2002-03 3.2TL, 2002-03 3.2CL, or 2002 MDX involved in this product update and recall. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. We will then update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting an Acura dealer, please call Acura Client Services at (800) 382-2238, and select Option 2.

We apologize for any inconvenience this repair may cause you.

Sincerely,

**American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Automobile Division**

Example of Customer Letter

Customer Letter #2

September 2003

Product Update: Timing Belt Tensioner

Dear Acura Owner:

We are sending this letter to notify you of a potential problem with your vehicle.

What is the problem?

Due to a manufacturing problem, the timing belt tensioner in your vehicle's engine can lose its oil. If enough oil is lost, the timing belt loosens and causes engine noise.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Acura automobile dealer, and make an appointment to have your vehicle updated. The dealer will replace the timing belt tensioner. This work will be done *free of charge*. Please plan to leave your vehicle all day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

Our records show that you are the current owner or lessee of a 2002–03 3.2TL, 2002–03 3.2CL, or 2002 MDX involved in this product update. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. We will then update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting an Acura dealer, please call Acura Client Services at (800) 382-2238, and select Option 2.

We apologize for any inconvenience this update may cause you.

Sincerely,

**American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Automobile Division**

September 19, 2003

Dear Service Manager:

Honda Motor Co., LTD. is announcing a Product Update Campaign affecting certain 2002-03 3.2 TLs, 2002-03 3.2CLs, and 2002 MDXs.

The timing belt tensioner is filled with oil to dampen oscillation. Due to a manufacturing problem, the tensioner oil can leak. If enough oil is lost, the timing belt loosens and causes engine noise. In addition, a few vehicles not yet corrected with service bulletin 02-022, Safety Recall: V6 Engine Water Pump, need to be repaired.

Repair Strategy

One of two repairs is needed, based on whether the vehicle is affected by the water pump recall and, if so, if the recall has been done.

1. If the vehicle is affected by the recall and the repair has not been done, inspect the casting die number on the water pump housing. If the casting die number is "9," replace the water pump, the timing belt, and the timing belt auto-tensioner.
2. If the vehicle is not affected by the recall or it was already repaired, replace the timing belt auto-tensioner.

For repair, affected VIN, and warranty information, refer to service bulletin 03-022, *Product Update: Timing Belt Auto-Tensioner/Safety Recall: V6 Engine Water Pump*.

Customer Notification

We will begin mailing customer notifications to owners of affected vehicles the week of September 29. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify its eligibility by checking one of these items.

- The customer has a notification letter.
- The vehicle is shown on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible on an iN VIN status inquiry.

Parts Information

A quantity of timing belt auto-tensioners equal to 30 percent of your sold vehicle inventory was allocated along with the posting of service bulletin 03-022. Additional parts are available through open ordering.

Sincerely,

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Automobile Division