2001-2003 Acura CL - Engine Air Filter Replacement

2001-2003 Acura CL | Easy | 10-15 minutes | $35 DIY

TOOLS

Flat-blade screwdriver (usually not needed - clips are hand-operated) Clean shop cloth or microfiber towel Damp cloth or shop vacuum for the lower tray

PARTS

Engine air filter for 2001-2003 Acura CL; verify engine, housing shape, and VIN fitment $35.00

STEPS

1. **Locate the airbox on the driver's side - Open the hood and look at the driver's side of** the engine bay: the second-generation CL (2001-2003) carries the J32 3.2L V6 - the J32A1 in the base car and the hotter J32A2 in the Type-S - and its factory airbox sits on the driver's...
2. **Release the airbox lid clips - Flip each clip outward with your thumb, working around the** box so you don't miss the one hiding at the back. If your CL has an intake-air temperature sensor wired into the duct, disconnect it by pressing its latch tab.
3. **Lift the lid and remove the old panel - Raise the lid straight up, steering clear of the** cruise-control cable clipped to the box, and pull the old panel filter out of the lower tray. Note the pleat direction and which side the rubber gasket faced - the J32's element seats only...
4. **Clean the tray and inspect the box - Wipe the lower tray with a damp cloth, scooping out** the leaves, sand and insect debris that collect at the bottom - the CL's front-facing intake snorkel ingests plenty of it. Inspect the tray for cracks around the clip mounts and where t...
5. **Seat the new filter flat - Lower the new panel into the tray so its rubber gasket settles** fully into the channel, then press around all four edges - it should lie flat with no bowing and no corner riding up. Confirm the pleats face the same direction as the old fi...
6. **Close the lid and latch every clip - Set the lid back down evenly and flip every clip** closed, then run a finger along the entire seam - it must be uniform with no lifted edge. Press down on the center of the lid and check for any shift that would betray a clip not fully lat...
7. **Verify idle and VTEC pull, log the service - Start the engine and let it idle - the J32** should settle into a smooth idle with no hunting. Blip the throttle and listen for whistling around the airbox, the sign of a clip not fully latched or a lid not sealing. Take a short drive with...

TORQUE

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