



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236) 2008 FEB - 1 AM-11:14-1047
INTERNET:www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received

Repository

Reference No.

10192984

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

SAN ANTONIO

State TX

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner _____ Date ____/____/____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

2HJYK1659

Make

HONDA

Model

RIDGELINE

Model Year

2006

Date Purchased
01-FEB-05Dealer's Name and Telephone Number
GUNN HONDA

Engine:

No: Cylinders 6

Fuel Type:

Gas

Original Owner

Dealer's City
SAN ANTONIO

State

TX

Zip Code

Transmission Type
AUTOMATIC Antilock Brakes
 Cruise ControlPowertrain
4 WHEEL DRIVEVehicle Component Code
980000 OTHER

Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATIONIncident Date(s)
01-JUN-2005

Failure Mileage

Failure Speed

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

Tire Model (Name or Number)

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)

 Original Equipment
 Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code

Tire Failure Type

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash

 Yes No

Fire

 Yes No

Number of Persons Injured

1

Number of Deaths

0

Reported to Police

N

Narrative Description of Incident(S), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).

Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

TL*THE CONTACT OWNS A 2006 HONDA RIDGELINE. THE CONTACT STATED THAT THERE WAS A WATER LEAK INSIDE THE VEHICLE, WHICH CAUSED THE CARPET PADDING TO MOLD. HE WAS TREATED FOR RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS DUE TO THE MOLD. THERE WAS A SERVICE BULLETIN ISSUED IN JULY OF 2005 FOR THIS FAILURE. THE CURRENT MILEAGE IS 24,000 AND THE FAILURE MILEAGE WAS UNKNOWN.

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

NHTSA
Ref. # 10192894

August 6th, 2007

I purchased a 2006 Honda Ridgeline from Gunn Honda (San Antonio, TX) the first day they became available. Shortly after purchasing the vehicle, I developed a severe allergy to 9 different types of molds. In addition to the severe chronic sinusitis, I also developed a fluid-retaining cyst in my right maxillary sinus, chronic vertigo, conductive deafness, tinnitus and middle ear fluid that has been refractory to multiple regimens of corticosteroids, antibiotics, antihistamines and decongestants. In addition to the EENT problems, I have also developed a shortness of breath, a tremor in my right hand and abnormal EMG readings in my legs and I am under the care of a neurologist. I have also gained a significant amount of weight due to chronic corticosteroid use. My wife, after the purchase of the truck, (at age 49) experienced her first of several asthma attacks that required treatment with short and long-acting bronchodilators (by inhaler and nebulizer). Her asthma has abated since she no longer gets in the truck.

My son [REDACTED] had his first of approximately 30 grand-mal seizure about one and one-half years ago and he required hospitalization for 10 days do to the refractory nature of his seizures. Two days were spent in intensive care and eight days on the Neurology floor for EEG w/video monitoring. We have some really cool video of my son having a 3-1/2 minute grand mal seizure followed by a postictal period where there was so little brain activity that he was given a diagnosis of Sudden Unexplained Death Syndrome (SUDS). After accepting a new position within the University of Texas Health Science Center, my wife took over the responsibility of transporting [REDACTED] back and forth to school in her car. Since this time, my son has not experienced a single seizure. We still have the electronic seizure monitor, portable oxygen, oxygen concentrator and suction machine deemed necessary by his neurologists and paid for by his insurance.

A couple of months ago, I discovered water condensation on the inside of all the windows of the truck. It was at this time that I lifted the floor mats and discovered that all the carpeting in the back if the truck as well as the right front was dripping wet (~3 gallons of water). I was reminded of an umbrella that was stored under the back seat that had to be thrown away due to rust about a year ago. I went home and performed a computer search for water leaks into Ridgeline trucks. I was absolutely beside myself when I found out that there was a service bulletin released (2005) about a defect in workmanship that resulted in water incursion into the right passenger section of the cab. It turns out that I had an additional water leak in the back of the cab. I was amazed to discover that Honda decided not to notify the owners of the 3,000 to 5,000 Ridgeline trucks affected by this very clear hazard to the health of any person that occupies these vehicles for even a short period of time (EPA and NIH guidelines for water incursion). Especially in light of how easy the repair is.

I have worked in the field of Clinical Immunology for 19 years, Infectious Diseases (refractory invasive fungal diseases) for three years and Pulmonary Diseases-Critical Care Medicine for 2 years. I immediately recognized the risk that my family and myself was placed in by Honda's failure to notify us of a **VERY** dangerous defect.

Please let me clarify. The Environmental Protection Agency has published guidelines about the risk to the public from water incursion into an enclosed environment. The guidelines specifically state that wet carpet and padding must be completely dried within 24 to 48 hours or the environment must be treated as being hazardous to human health and that mold remediation should be performed before any further exposure takes place. That seems pretty clear does it not? The first mold expected to take up shop is aspergillus. This nasty resident of the damp and dark cause's asthma, aspergilloma, aspergillosis and worst of all is disseminated invasive aspergillosis. It also produces a mycotoxin (ochratoxin A, B and C) which are known human carcinogens (cause cancer). Penicillium also produces this cancer-causing mycotoxin. Fusarium is another mold that I have been sensitized to. Trichthecene T-2 mycotoxin produced by fusarium (dubbed "yellow rain") was first turned into a biological weapon in 1932 and was used by the Soviets (1975-1981) to kill over 6,500 men, woman and children in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan. Fusarium contaminated food has a mortality rate of 60% and has been indicated in the birth of 31 anencephalic (little to no brain) children born in the Rio Grand region of Texas in 1991. Interestingly, exposure to this mycotoxin causes seizures. What do all these molds have in common, they are all associated with **water incursion into carpeting** and I have been highly sensitized to them in a very short period of time.

I asked one of the leading health experts on Mycosis to evaluate the specific mold pattern that I was sensitized to with the molds that I was not sensitized to. His observation was that I had become sensitized to molds common to water incursion and not the common airborne molds not associated with water incursion. His written suggestion was "When folks such as yourself are experiencing severe allergic manifestations following exposure to fungal proteins, then the best solution is always - get away from the source. Hence, it is important for you to not be purposefully exposed in your truck". My allergist (upon discovery of my mold exposure) ran additional tests that revealed that I was sensitized to a mold that she had never heard of. There is clear and compelling evidence that I was exposed to and became sensitized to many molds directly related to the water incursion in my truck. I have been screened for allergies several times and have never been shown to be allergic to anything prior to this incident.

My wife and son are in the process of being tested for mold exposure and I have a referral to a Pulmonologist to see if there have been any damage to my lungs by comparing my pulmonary function studies from three years ago (done as a routine procedure to calibrate the spirometer. It is not clear if my sons' seizures are result of significant exposure to high levels of mycotoxins, which can cause central nervous system problems in children. Further evaluation in underway.

I have requested that my 2006 Honda Ridgeline be replaced to avoid any possible exposure to these molds, mold spores and mycotoxins due to the high degree of sensitivity

that I have shown and this request was denied. The dealer did replace the padding and clean the carpeting but did nothing to remove molds (mycelia, mold spores and myotoxins) from the evaporator coil, seat padding or the air conditioning ducts.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

San Antonio, Texas [REDACTED]

VIN# 2HJK16596 [REDACTED] (22,260 miles)