

Do Not Over-Torque the Rear Differential Drain Plugs When Servicing

AFFECTED VEHICLES

Year	Model	Trim Level
2018–24	CR-V	AWD
2018–24	HR-V	AWD

Some customers have complained of fluid leaking from the rear differential after it has been serviced.

This seems like common sense, but **NEVER use an impact tool on the differential drain plug**. Final torque will be achieved using a torque wrench. Always verify the fastener torque specification in the service manual prior to starting each job.

Honda has analyzed returned rear differential assemblies, and many of the rear differential drain plug threads were over-torqued and stripped during normal maintenance servicing, creating a fluid leak that allows the fluid level to get low enough to cause the rear differential to fail.

A 3/8-inch drive electric impact driver has a range of 203 to 338 N·m (150 to 250 lb-ft) of torque, which far exceeds the drain plug specification. The AWD rear differential drain plug threads will fail between 108 N·m (80 lb-ft) to 164 N·m (121 lb-ft) of torque.

The AWD rear differential drain plug specified torque is **47 N·m (35 lb-ft)**.

The attached video shows what can happen when an electric impact driver is used to tighten the drain bolt on an AWD CR-V differential.

Click here to watch the video:



STRIPPED THREADS CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE TORQUE.

American Honda has developed several video training modules to educate and prepare technicians to better understand the importance of proper tightening of fasteners and drain bolt torque specifications.

Self-Study Training Modules

Module No.	Module Title	Module Type
ESC28	DRAIN AND REFILL REAR DIFFERENTIAL	Self-Study
GIC35	THREADED FASTNERS & TORQUE	Self-Study
SVC04	TORQUE PROCEDURES	Self-Study

NOTE: Modules GIC35 and SVC04 are required for PDI, Express Service, and General Repair Technician certifications.