SAC **Springfield Auto Care** EXAMPLE SHOP
service@springfield-auto-care.example

2003 Honda Civic at 120,000 mi

2HGES26773H123456

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
Civic · ES2 Civic EX sedan (1.7L)	Honda D17 1.7L four-cylinder (D17A)	120,000 mi	FWD
BUILD MONTH	**REPORT DATE**	**MODE**	**PREPARED FOR**
Not entered (door jamb)	October 28, 2026	Shop	Sample Owner

VIN check: check digit valid; model-year code '3' = 2003, matches the year entered. The VIN doesn't record the build month. Sample report: synthetic VIN.

1 · SUMMARY

What this car needs, in order

Each item compares this car's mileage with when owners and shops report the part failing. It is not an inspection: our technician decides what the car actually needs.

1
inspection recommended now

1
to plan in the next 30,000 miles · plus 5 factory maintenance items

2
to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (9 of 10)

- **19V-501** · Air bags · passenger frontal inflator: The passenger air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments.
- **19V-499** · Air bags · driver frontal inflator: The driver air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments.
- **19V-182** · Air bags · driver frontal inflator: The driver air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments.
- **18V-268** · Air bags · passenger frontal (installed wrong): A replacement passenger air bag may have been installed wrongly and may deploy improperly.
- **15V-370** · Air bags · passenger frontal inflator: The passenger air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments.
- **15V-320** · Air bags · driver frontal inflator: The driver air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments.
- **14V-700** · Air bags · passenger frontal inflator (high-humidity regions): The passenger air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments.
- **14V-353** · Air bags · passenger frontal inflator (California cars): The passenger air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments.
- **10V-364** · Ignition switch · key interlock (automatic): The key can be removed without shifting to Park, so the car can roll away.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. The full report lists the others. Repairs are free at a Honda dealer if open. On a car over 15 years old, ask the dealer whether a newer recall is still repaired free. Check this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

Step 0 · Free: run the VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls and ask a Honda dealer for a campaign printout. Read the build month (MM/YY) on the driver's door-jamb label.

Recommended now at the next service — $140

Inspection: check now, while it's cheaper to fix — $140

inspection EXAMPLE

Automatic transmission failure: Past the range (64,000–110,000 mi, the middle half of 189 owner reports) · if it fails: $2,020–$3,080

Known weak point for this engine, not a finding on your car. The inspection shows whether yours has early signs.

Next 12 months up to about 132,000 mi — $550

Timing belt (interference engine) — $550

our price EXAMPLE

Any mileage (Follow the owner's manual schedule; repair guide confirms belt and interference design)

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 150,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

Watch inspect at each service, fix on condition, or optional

Head gasket (coolant loss, overheating) — $2,400

our price EXAMPLE

Any mileage (Owner reports average about 152,000 mi (2004 Civic, CarComplaints)) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Cracked exhaust manifold (with built-in catalytic converter) — Ask us for a quote

Any mileage (Owner reports average about 106,000 mi (2001 Civic, CarComplaints)) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Recommended now

$140

Springfield Auto Care prices (example)

Planned through 150,000 mi

From $1,745

Now + next 12 months + next 30,000 miles, with the factory maintenance on this report if the records don’t show it done. Excludes “watch” and optional items.

Prices are Springfield Auto Care's estimates for typical parts and labor. They don't include tax, shop supplies or disposal fees, and may change after inspection or if part prices change. Not a written repair estimate: Springfield Auto Care confirms the price and gets your OK before any work.

Bundled jobs are priced together because the labor overlaps. Routine service (oil, brakes, tires) isn't included; factory fluid and spark plug intervals are listed below.

FACTORY MAINTENANCE

Scheduled maintenance from 120,000 mi to 150,000 mi

The maker's normal schedule for this car. Service history isn't known here, so an item is shown at its next interval mark; skip it if the records show it was done.

ITEM	INTERVAL	THIS CAR	OUR PRICE
Spark plugs	every 110,000 mi	**Was due at 110,000 mi (check records)** [M1]	**$249**
Engine coolant First at 120,000 mi or 10 years, then every 60,000 mi or 5 years.	first at 120,000 mi, then every 60,000 mi or 5 years	**Due by age: every 5 years (check records)** [M1][M2]	**From $179**
Brake fluid Honda: replace every 3 years regardless of mileage (newer Maintenance Minder cars show code 7 and may call it sooner).	every 3 years	**By time: check the records** [M1][M2]	**$129**
Automatic transmission fluid (if equipped) Automatic: first at 120,000 mi or 6 years, then every 90,000 mi or 5 years.	first at 120,000 mi, then every 90,000 mi or 5 years	**Due by age: every 5 years (check records)** [M1][M2]	**$259**
CVT fluid (if equipped) Civic HX CVT only: first at 60,000 mi or 3 years, then every 40,000 mi or 2 years.	first at 60,000 mi, then every 40,000 mi or 2 years	**Was due at 100,000 mi and by age (check records)** [M1]	**$239**

M1. 2001 Honda Civic Owner's Manual - Maintenance Schedule for Normal Conditions OFFICIAL
https://archive.org/details/manualzilla-id-6039125

M2. 2004 Honda Civic Sedan Owner's Manual p.139 - Normal Conditions schedule (manualsdir copy) OFFICIAL
https://manualsdir.com/manuals/678909/honda-2004-civic-sedan-owners-manual.html?page=142

WHERE 120K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Head gasket (coolant loss, overheating)	Owner reports average about 152,000 mi (2004 Civic, CarComplaints) FORUM/BLOG	Any mileage
2	Automatic transmission failure	64,000–110,000 mi (middle half of 189 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA	Past the range
3	Cracked exhaust manifold (with built-in catalytic converter)	Owner reports average about 106,000 mi (2001 Civic, CarComplaints) FORUM/BLOG	Any mileage
4	Timing belt (interference engine)	Follow the owner's manual schedule; repair guide confirms belt and interference design FORUM/BLOG	Any mileage

Colors compare mileage with reported failures, not the car's condition. Red: past the range. Amber: inside or approaching. Green: below, or not listed for a recall.

2 · RECALLS AND BULLETINS

Recalls to check for this 2003 Honda Civic

Safety recall repairs are free at Honda dealers. On a car over 15 years old, ask the dealer whether a newer recall is still repaired free. Nothing here can tell whether a recall is open or already done on this VIN; only the official VIN lookup or a dealer can.

Official VIN check (2 minutes)

1. Go to nhtsa.gov/recalls and enter 2HGES26773H123456.
2. Note every recall shown as “Recall incomplete” and keep a screenshot.
3. Ask a Honda dealer for a campaign printout; it also lists completed campaigns.

1.7L D17 RECALLS WE TRACK

Other 1.7L D17 recalls we track, not listed by NHTSA for this model and year: 01V-183 (fuel pump connector corrosion (2001 Civic sedan)), 01V-182 (fuel filler neck hose clamps (2001 Civic)), 01V-329 (air cleaner cover piece in the intake (2001–2002 Civic)).

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2003 HONDA CIVIC (10)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
19V-501	Air bags · passenger frontal inflator	The passenger air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments. Details
19V-499	Air bags · driver frontal inflator	The driver air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments. Details
19V-182	Air bags · driver frontal inflator	The driver air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments. Details
18V-268	Air bags · passenger frontal (installed wrong)	A replacement passenger air bag may have been installed wrongly and may deploy improperly. Details
15V-370	Air bags · passenger frontal inflator	The passenger air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments. Details
15V-320	Air bags · driver frontal inflator	The driver air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments. Details
14V-700	Air bags · passenger frontal inflator (high-humidity regions)	The passenger air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments. Details
14V-353	Air bags · passenger frontal inflator (California cars)	The passenger air bag inflator can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments. Details
10V-364	Ignition switch · key interlock (automatic)	The key can be removed without shifting to Park, so the car can roll away. Details
12V-136	Headlights · switch wiring connector	The headlight wiring connector can overheat and melt, so the low beams stop working. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-28 and combined across NHTSA model names: CIVIC. Safety categories (air bags, fire, brakes, stalling, roll-away and loss of control) are listed first; listings whose NHTSA text names another engine, or an aftermarket

part, go last. OFFICIAL
Left out of this list (CIVIC): 07V-512 (natural gas fuel tank) covers the Civic GX only and is left out of this gasoline sample; 07E-104 (Safelite replacement glass) and the 06E-/08E-/09E- recalls (aftermarket lamps) are equipment recalls and are left out. A VIN check would show any that applied.

SERVICE ACTIONS, BULLETINS AND WARRANTY PROGRAMS

Manufacturer bulletins and warranty programs for this engine are cited on each weak point in section 4, where they apply.

4 · THE 4 WEAK POINTS

Each weak point, one card each

Every figure carries its source. Retailer part numbers are shown only when the retailer lists them for this chassis (ES2). Left out because they apply to other models, years, engine sizes or body codes: CVT belt slip and start clutch judder (Civic HX).

1 Head gasket (coolant loss, overheating)

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 41 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (Owner reports average about 152,000 mi (2004 Civic, CarComplaints)), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: Owner reports average about 152,000 mi (2004 Civic, CarComplaints) FORUM/BLOG [3]

WHAT FAILS FORUM/BLOG [2][3]

Repair guides say the 1.7L in the 2001–2005 Civic is prone to head gasket failure, most often after the engine overheats. Signs are fast overheating, white exhaust smoke and milky oil. Owners report the usual fix is a new gasket with the head machined flat. A leaking radiator, hose or water pump can look the same, so check those first.

SYMPTOMS

- Coolant level dropping
- Overheating
- White exhaust smoke
- Milky oil or bubbles in the radiator

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Driving while overheating can warp the head and ruin the engine.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Fix any cooling leak early; test for combustion gas before replacing the gasket.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Head gasket replacement, Honda Civic (RepairPal estimate, all years)	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Same job; a warped head adds machining	**$2,214–$3,021** SHOP/RETAILER [4] reported range for the bill after a failure

Where the numbers come from: Owners on CarComplaints report a typical repair near $1,550 [3].

PARTS FOR ES2

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Any overheating or coolant top-ups?
- Head gasket ever replaced?

2 Automatic transmission failure

Past the range

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 659 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

At 120,000 mi this car is past the reported range (64,000–110,000 mi (middle half of 189 owner complaints that state a mileage)). If the original parts are still fitted, have them checked and plan for them. Range: 64,000–110,000 mi (middle

half of 189 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1]



Applies to: 2001–2005 Civic automatic

WHAT FAILS FORUM/BLOG [6][7]

Honda has a bulletin for 2001–2004 Civics that will not move when D is selected, with the check-engine light on or the D light blinking and code P0730 stored. Owners report automatic transmission failure as the most common big repair on these Civics, usually fixed by replacing the transmission. We found no Honda extension for the regular automatic.

SYMPTOMS

- Will not move in D
- Blinking D light or check-engine light (P0730)
- Slipping or flaring between gears
- Delayed engagement

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A failed transmission strands the car.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Change the ATF on schedule; act on slipping or a blinking D light early.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

No published price	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Owner-reported repair bills in NHTSA complaints (n=58)	**$2,020–$3,080** COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1] reported range for the bill after a failure

Where the numbers come from: Computed from 58 NHTSA owner complaints that quote a repair bill for this problem (middle half of the bills; median $2,700). Examples: ODI 10671472, 10585090, 10541973, 10490576. Owner-reported, often dealer prices; not shop quotes. Owners on CarComplaints report a typical bill near $2,190 [7].

PARTS FOR ES2

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Transmission ever replaced?
- Any slipping or blinking D light?

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3 Cracked exhaust manifold (with built-in catalytic converter)

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 28 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (Owner reports average about 106,000 mi (2001 Civic, CarComplaints)), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: Owner reports average about 106,000 mi (2001 Civic, CarComplaints) FORUM/BLOG [5]

WHAT FAILS FORUM/BLOG [5]

Owners of 2001–2003 Civics report the exhaust manifold cracking, often at a welded seam. The manifold is made of stamped, welded steel and is combined with the catalytic converter, so the fix is usually a new manifold-converter unit. A crack shows up as a loud exhaust leak on cold starts and can let fumes reach the cabin.

SYMPTOMS

- Ticking or loud exhaust at cold start

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

No published shop price	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Typical owner-reported repair, 2001 Civic (CarComplaints)	**$700** FORUM/BLOG [5] reported range for the bill after a failure

- Exhaust smell in the cabin
- Check-engine light

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Exhaust fumes can enter the cabin.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Inspect under the heat shield at the first exhaust tick.

PARTS FOR ES2

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Any exhaust leak noise or smell?
- Manifold ever replaced?

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4 Timing belt (interference engine)

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 14 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (Follow the owner's manual schedule; repair guide confirms belt and interference design), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: Follow the owner's manual schedule; repair guide confirms belt and interference design FORUM/BLOG [11]

WHAT FAILS FORUM/BLOG [11]

The 2001–2005 Civic 1.7L uses a timing belt and is an interference engine. If the belt breaks, the valves are likely bent and the cylinder head has to come off.

SYMPTOMS

- No warning before a break
- Engine cranks but will not start after a break

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A broken belt usually bends valves.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Replace on schedule, ideally with the water pump.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Timing belt replacement, 2003 Civic (RepairPal estimate)	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Broken belt: head and valve repair (no published price)	**No published price** reported range for the bill after a failure

PARTS FOR ES2

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- When was the timing belt done?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in 1.7L D17 owner complaints

Every NHTSA complaint theme with 10 or more counted reports is either a weak point above or explained here.

THEME	COMPLAINTS	WHY IT ISN'T A WEAK POINT
Stalling / loss of power	169	Mixed causes (transmission, fuel pump, electrical). Honda investigated 2001–2005 Civic fuel pumps; check fuel recalls 01V-183 and 01V-182 on 2001 cars.
Headlight switch	125	Covered by recall 04V-086 (headlight switch wiring); not an engine fault.

How this report is built

Inputs. VIN, model year, model, mileage and build month (if entered). Model and engine are checked with NHTSA's vPIC decoder.

Mileage positions. Below: more than 10,000 miles before the reported range. Approaching: within 10,000. Inside: in the range, or past the start of an open-ended range. Past: beyond the top of the range. These bands are our rules, not an industry standard.

The plan. Critical items inside or past their range go first; high-severity items follow, and jobs that share labor are bundled. At most three jobs land in “Recommended now”. Leaks that are cheap to watch are fixed on condition; inspections are asked for at each service.

Costs. Published independent-shop ranges from shop quotes, retailer prices and owner reports. Shop prices come from the issuing shop. The worst-case cost of every item failing is not shown: it isn't an expected cost.

Labels. `OFFICIAL` NHTSA/Honda documents · `SHOP/RETAILER` parts prices and shop articles · `FORUM/BLOG` owner forums and blogs · `COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA` our analysis of NHTSA data · `OUR ESTIMATE` ours.

NHTSA complaint data. Pulled Oct 27, 2026 from NHTSA's complaints API for 2001–2005 Civic complaints that do not mention the Si, hybrid, GX/natural gas or a 2.0L: 2,803 complaints. Some of these nameplates were sold with other engines too; for those we left out complaints whose text names another engine or a hybrid, so a few complaints about other engines can remain. Themes are keyword matches on the complaint text.
`COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA`

THEME	COMPLAINTS	IN THIS REPORT
Transmission	659	Item 2
Stalling / loss of power	169	Also reported
Headlight switch	125	Also reported
Coolant loss / head gasket	41	Item 1
Exhaust manifold / catalytic	28	Item 3
Timing belt	14	Item 4
CVT	11	Other years or engine sizes

Limits: complaints are self-reported and not adjusted for cars sold; keyword matching over- and under-counts; owners rarely file safety complaints about oil seeps, so leaks look rarer than they are.

SOURCES

1. NHTSA owner complaints for 2001–2005 Civic (Si, hybrid and natural-gas complaints left out), pulled Oct 27, 2026 (ODI numbers in the cost notes) `OFFICIAL`
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. Troubleshoot My Vehicle: How to test for a blown head gasket (2001–2005 1.7L Honda Civic), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 `FORUM/BLOG`
https://mail.troubleshootmyvehicle.com/honda/1700/how-to-test-a-blown-head-gasket

3. CarComplaints: 2004 Honda Civic head gasket failure (owner reports, typical repair cost and mileage), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 `FORUM/BLOG`
https://m.carcomplaints.com/Honda/Civic/2004/engine/head_gasket_fail.shtml

4. RepairPal: Honda Civic repair and maintenance costs (head gasket replacement estimate), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 `SHOP/RETAILER`
https://repairpal.com/honda/civic

5. CarComplaints: 2001 Honda Civic cracked exhaust manifold (owner reports, typical repair cost and mileage), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 FORUM/BLOG
https://www.carcomplaints.com/Honda/Civic/2001/engine/exhaust_manifold_cracked.shtml

6. Honda Service Bulletin 04-036: Vehicle cannot move when D is selected; MIL on or D indicator blinks with DTC P0730 (2001–2004 Civic) (2011-07-26), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10010754

7. CarComplaints: 2003 Honda Civic transmission failure (owner reports, typical repair cost), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 FORUM/BLOG
https://www.carcomplaints.com/Honda/Civic/2003/transmission/transmission_failure.shtml

8. Honda Service Bulletin 07-050: Warranty extension: CVT drive belt slippage (Civic HX and GX CVT) (2008-02-05), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2008/CSC-10024235-7187.pdf

9. Honda Service Bulletin 07-049: Warranty extension: CVT start clutch judder (2008-02-05), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2008/CSC-10024568-9922.pdf

10. RepairPal: 2003 Honda Civic repair and maintenance costs (timing belt replacement estimate), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 SHOP/RETAILER
https://www.repairpal.com/cars/honda/civic/2003

11. Troubleshoot My Vehicle: Broken timing belt test (2001–2005 1.7L Honda Civic, interference engine), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 FORUM/BLOG
https://mail.troubleshootmyvehicle.com/honda/1700/broken-timing-belt-test

12. NHTSA recall records: 01V-182 (fuel filler neck hose clamps), 01V-183 (fuel pump connector) and 01V-329 (air cleaner cover piece in the intake), checked Oct 27, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=01V182000

This report contains no affiliate links; retailer prices are quoted as price sources only. Found an error? Email hello@repairahead.com.

PLEASE READ

Important

Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.

Informational only. This report is not a mechanical inspection, a diagnosis, or professional, legal or financial advice. It was issued by Springfield Auto Care using RepairAhead data; the inspection findings and prices are the shop's.

Reported ranges and estimates, not predictions

Failure mileages are reported ranges compiled from public owner complaints, manufacturer bulletins, recalls and repair-shop reports. Costs are estimates. Parts can fail earlier, later or not at all, and other problems can occur. Statistics from owner complaints describe past reports to NHTSA; NHTSA has not reviewed or endorsed this analysis.

Safety issues go to a dealer

If you notice overheating, a burning or fuel smell, smoke, a brake-assist problem, stalling or loss of power, pull over when it's safe and contact a Honda dealer or qualified shop. Safety recall repairs are free at Honda dealers. Confirm recalls for this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

No warranty

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Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.