

GENERIC · BODY

B0342

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0342

HVAC Heated Seat Passenger Circuit

B0342 indicates that the body control module (BCM) has detected an abnormal condition in the passenger-side heated seat circuit, such as an open, short, or out-of-range resistance. The module monitors current flow and voltage on the heating element and switch circuits, and when the feedback falls outside the expected window, it stores this code and may disable the heated seat function.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Body	Generic (all makes)	Low	Intermediate	Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- The passenger heated seat does not warm up at all when switched on.
- The heated seat indicator light may flash or stay off when the button is pressed.
- The seat may heat only on one cushion or backrest zone, or only at certain settings.
- In some vehicles, the heated seat may stay on continuously or turn off intermittently.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the fault is intermittent or only affects one heating element.
- A burning smell or visible scorch marks on the seat upholstery in severe short-circuit cases.

Common causes, most likely first

- Failed passenger seat heating element (open circuit or short to ground).
- Damaged wiring or connector at the seat, often from flexing or pinched harness under the seat.
- Faulty passenger heated seat switch or control module.
- Blown fuse or relay dedicated to the passenger heated seat circuit.
- Corroded or loose ground connection for the seat heater circuit.
- BCM internal fault or software issue misinterpreting the circuit feedback.
- Aftermarket seat covers or accessories interfering with the heating element or wiring.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Verify the code with a scan tool and check for any related body codes before clearing.
- 2 Inspect the passenger heated seat fuse and relay, replacing them if blown or faulty.
- 3 Visually inspect the under-seat wiring harness and connectors for damage, corrosion, or loose pins.
- 4 Measure resistance of the heating element at the connector and compare to specification; replace the element if open or shorted.
- 5 Test the heated seat switch and control module with a multimeter or by swapping with a known-good unit.
- 6 Check ground connections for the seat heater circuit and clean or tighten as needed.
- 7 Clear the code and verify the heated seat operates correctly through all settings; if the code returns, perform a guided diagnostic with the manufacturer's scan tool.

Common traps when diagnosing B0342

- A pinched wire under the seat is a frequent cause that is easily missed during visual inspection because the damage is often hidden beneath the carpet or seat frame.
The code can be set by a faulty seat occupancy sensor or weight sensor on some vehicles, as these share the same harness and can affect circuit feedback.
- Intermittent faults may only appear when the seat is moved or when the vehicle is driven over bumps, so wiggle-testing the harness while monitoring live data is essential.
- Aftermarket heated seat kits or seat covers can overload the circuit and trigger this code even when factory components are healthy.
The BCM may disable the heated seat function entirely after a few fault cycles, so the seat may not work even after the original problem is fixed until the code is cleared.

Can I keep driving with B0342?

The vehicle remains safe to drive because the heated seat is a comfort feature and does not affect engine, braking, or safety systems. Avoid using the heated seat until the fault is repaired, especially if you notice a burning smell or the seat stays on continuously, to prevent further electrical damage or fire risk.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with body control module capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Trim removal tools
- Wiring diagram for the heated seat circuit



Reading B0342

- B** Body: airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 3** Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems.
- 42** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

B0341 HVAC Heated Seat Driver Circuit

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [EV Powertrain Trainer: How an Electric Car Drives](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0342/>

