

GENERIC · BODY

B0561

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0561

Driver Power Seat Up/Down Circuit

B0561 indicates that the body control module (BCM) has detected a fault in the power seat up/down circuit for the driver's seat, typically an open, short, or excessive resistance in the wiring or motor. The BCM monitors the circuit and sets this code when the expected voltage or current is outside the normal range during seat movement commands.

SYSTEM

Body

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Airbags, seats, doors, lights and comfort systems

Symptoms you may notice

- The driver's power seat does not move up or down when the switch is operated.
- The seat moves in one direction but not the other (e.g., up works but down does not).
- The seat moves slowly or intermittently, especially under load.
- A grinding or clicking noise may be heard from the seat motor area.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, as the seat may still function normally in some cases.
- The seat may be stuck in one position, affecting driving comfort and position.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failed seat motor (up/down motor) due to wear or internal damage.
- 2 Damaged or chafed wiring in the seat harness, often where it flexes with seat movement.
- 3 Corroded or loose electrical connectors at the seat motor or BCM.
- 4 Faulty seat adjustment switch (up/down switch) not making proper contact.
- 5 Blown fuse or tripped circuit breaker supplying the seat motor circuit.
- 6 BCM internal fault or software issue causing false detection.
- 7 Mechanical binding or obstruction in the seat track preventing movement, leading to overcurrent.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the fuse and circuit breaker for the power seat circuit; replace if blown.
- 2 Inspect the wiring harness under the seat for damage, chafing, or loose connectors; repair as needed.
- 3 Test the seat switch for continuity and proper operation; replace if faulty.
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage at the seat motor connector while operating the switch to check for power and ground.
- 5 Apply direct power to the seat motor to verify it operates; replace motor if it fails to run.
- 6 Check for mechanical binding in the seat track and lubricate or repair as necessary.
- 7 Clear the code and retest; if it returns, diagnose the BCM and circuit with a scan tool and wiring diagram.

Common Missteps in Power Seat Diagnosis

- A seat that moves in one direction but not the other often points to a faulty switch or a broken wire in the direction that fails, not necessarily the motor.
- The BCM may set this code if the seat motor draws excessive current due to mechanical binding, so always check for obstructions before replacing electrical parts.
- Wiring under the seat is prone to damage from cargo or feet, and a visual inspection often reveals chafed insulation that causes intermittent shorts.
- Some vehicles use a seat control module separate from the BCM, and a fault there can mimic a BCM issue; consult the specific vehicle's wiring diagram.
- After repairs, the code may need to be cleared with a scan tool, and some systems require a recalibration of the seat position memory.

Can I keep driving with B0561?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive because the power seat does not affect steering, braking, or other critical systems. However, if the seat is stuck in an unsafe position, avoid driving until it can be adjusted manually or repaired.

Tools that help

- Scan tool with BCM capability
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Socket set
- Trim removal tools
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle



Reading B0561

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

Often seen with

B0560 Driver Power Seat Forward/Back Circuit · **B0562** Driver Power Seat Recline Circuit · **U0155** Lost Communication With Body Control Module

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How an Automatic Transmission Works, Gear by Gear](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0561/>

