

GENERIC · BODY

B0610

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

B0610

Mirror Heater Circuit

B0610 indicates that the body control module (BCM) has detected an open circuit, short to ground, or short to voltage in the mirror heater circuit, which powers the heating element inside the side-view mirror. The BCM monitors the current flow through the heater and sets this code when the expected current is outside the normal range.

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 side-view mirror heating function does not work, so the mirror glass stays fogged or frosted in cold or damp weather.
- The mirror heater may stay on continuously, causing the mirror glass to become unusually hot to the touch.
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, because the mirror heater is a comfort feature and many drivers never notice its failure.
- A blown fuse for the mirror heater circuit, which may also affect other body functions on the same fuse.
- In some vehicles, the BCM may disable other unrelated body features as a protective strategy when a short is detected.
- The mirror glass may show uneven heating, with only part of the surface clearing.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A failed mirror heater element (open circuit) inside the mirror glass assembly, which is the most common cause.
- 2 Corroded or damaged wiring and connector pins at the mirror, door jamb, or BCM, often due to water intrusion.
- 3 A short to ground or short to voltage in the mirror heater wiring harness, typically where the harness flexes at the door hinge.
- 4 A faulty body control module (BCM) output driver for the mirror heater circuit, though this is less common.
- 5 A blown fuse or faulty relay that supplies power to the mirror heater circuit.
- 6 Aftermarket mirror glass or accessories installed incorrectly, causing a mismatch in resistance.



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check the fuse and relay for the mirror heater circuit, and replace any blown fuse or faulty relay.
- 2 Disconnect the mirror heater connector and measure the resistance of the heater element; compare to the manufacturer's specification to confirm an open or shorted element.
- 3 Inspect the wiring harness and connector pins at the mirror, door jamb, and BCM for corrosion, chafing, or loose terminals, and repair as needed.
- 4 With the heater commanded on, measure voltage and current at the mirror connector to verify the BCM output and detect a short to ground or voltage.
- 5 If the element and wiring test good, substitute a known-good BCM or reprogram the existing BCM, following the manufacturer's procedures.
- 6 Clear the code and verify the repair by activating the mirror heater and confirming the code does not return.

Mirror heater faults that fool technicians

- A mirror heater element can fail intermittently when cold, so a resistance check at room temperature may pass even though the code sets only in freezing weather.
- Water intrusion into the mirror housing or door connector is a frequent hidden cause, and the corroded pins often look fine until the connector is opened and inspected.
- The BCM may set B0610 for a short to voltage even when the heater works normally, because a chafed wire can back-feed voltage from another circuit in the same harness.
- Aftermarket mirror glass with an incorrect resistance can trigger this code even though the heater functions, so always compare the replacement part to the original specification.
- A weak or failing battery can cause the BCM to misreport heater circuit current, so check charging system health before condemning the BCM.

Can I keep driving with B0610?

The vehicle is safe to drive because the mirror heater is a comfort feature and does not affect steering, braking, or visibility laws in most regions. Avoid using the mirror heater until the fault is repaired, and clear the mirror glass manually if it fogs, as a shorted circuit could drain the battery or damage the BCM over time.

Tools that help

- Digital multimeter (DMM) with resistance and current measurement
- Vehicle-specific service information for wiring diagrams and resistance specifications
- Trim removal tools for accessing mirror and door connectors
- Scan tool capable of reading body codes and activating the mirror heater
- Test light or fused jumper wire for circuit testing



Reading B0610

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

Often seen with

U0140 Lost Communication With Instrument Panel Cluster

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Padlock Works: Pin Tumbler Lock in X-Ray](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/b0610/>

