

CHRYSLER · POWERTRAIN

P1191

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1191 · Chrysler

Intake Air Duct Air Leak

P1191 on Chrysler vehicles indicates that the engine computer has detected an intake air duct air leak, meaning unmetered air is entering the intake system downstream of the mass airflow sensor. The computer typically recognizes this condition when fuel trim values exceed a calibrated threshold, signaling that the engine is receiving more air than the sensor has measured.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Chrysler specific

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Fuel and air
metering

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough or erratic idle, sometimes fluctuating up and down
- Hesitation or stumble during acceleration
- Lean misfire codes or a pending misfire code stored alongside P1191
- Whistling or hissing sound from the engine bay while running
- Poor fuel economy or increased fuel smell at idle

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Cracked or torn intake air duct between the mass airflow sensor and throttle body
- 2 Loose or improperly seated air duct clamp at the throttle body or air box
- 3 Disconnected or damaged vacuum hose connected to the intake duct
- 4 Failed mass airflow sensor providing an inaccurate reading
- 5 Leaking intake manifold gasket or throttle body gasket
- 6 Cracked intake manifold or damaged PCV hose causing unmetered air entry
- 7 Missing or improperly installed oil filler cap or dipstick, allowing unmetered air into the crankcase

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the entire intake air duct from the air box to the throttle body for cracks, tears, or loose clamps
- 2 Check all vacuum hoses and PCV hoses connected to the intake duct for proper connection and condition
- 3 Verify the oil filler cap and dipstick are fully seated and sealing correctly
- 4 Use a scan tool to monitor fuel trim values and confirm the lean condition before and after repairs
- 5 Perform a smoke test on the intake system to pinpoint any hidden leaks
- 6 Clean or replace the mass airflow sensor if contamination or failure is suspected
- 7 Clear the code and road test the vehicle to confirm the repair and ensure the code does not return



Hidden intake leaks that trigger P1191

- A loose oil filler cap or dipstick can allow unmetered air into the crankcase and trigger P1191 on Chrysler engines, so always check these simple items first.
- The intake air duct often cracks on the underside or at the flex joint where it is difficult to see, so a visual inspection must include squeezing and flexing the duct while the engine runs.
- A dirty or failing mass airflow sensor can report less air than actually enters the engine, mimicking a duct leak and leading to unnecessary replacement of the duct.
- P1191 can be set by a vacuum leak at the intake manifold gasket even when the duct itself is intact, so a smoke test is the definitive way to find the source.
- After repairing the leak, the fuel trim values may take a few drive cycles to relearn, so do not assume the repair failed if the light stays on briefly.

Can I keep driving with P1191?

You can drive the vehicle short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing until the leak is fixed. Prolonged driving with a lean condition can cause misfires and damage the catalytic converter.

Tools that help

- Scan tool with live data capability
- Smoke machine
- Flashlight
- Socket set
- Screwdriver set

Reading P1191

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
1	Manufacturer-specific code (Chrysler): its meaning depends on the make.
1	Fuel and air metering.
91	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0171 System Too Lean (Bank 1) · **P0174** System Too Lean (Bank 2) · **P0300** Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P0301** Cylinder 1 Misfire Detected · **P2279** Intake Air System Leak



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Engine Cooling System Trainer: How Engines Stay Cool](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/chrysler-p1191/>

