

FORD · POWERTRAIN

P1180

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1180 · Ford

Fuel Delivery System Malfunction Low

P1180 on Ford vehicles indicates that the powertrain control module has detected a malfunction in the fuel delivery system that is causing a low fuel condition, typically a lean air/fuel mixture or insufficient fuel pressure. The computer monitors fuel trims and oxygen sensor feedback to determine that the engine is not receiving enough fuel to maintain the commanded air/fuel ratio.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Ford specific

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Fuel and air
metering

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Engine hesitation or stumble during acceleration
- Rough idle or intermittent stalling
- Reduced engine power and poor fuel economy
- Difficulty starting, especially when cold
- Occasional misfire or surging at steady speeds

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Weak or failing fuel pump
- 2 Clogged fuel filter
- 3 Restricted fuel line or pinched fuel hose
- 4 Faulty fuel pressure regulator
- 5 Leaking or stuck-open fuel injector
- 6 Contaminated fuel or low fuel pressure due to a faulty fuel pump driver module
- 7 Wiring or connector issues at the fuel pump or fuel pressure sensor



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Check fuel pressure at the rail and compare to Ford specifications
- 2 Inspect fuel filter for restriction and replace if necessary
- 3 Test fuel pump operation and current draw to rule out a weak pump
- 4 Inspect fuel lines and hoses for kinks, leaks, or damage
- 5 Test fuel pressure regulator for proper operation and replace if faulty
- 6 Perform a fuel injector balance test to identify leaking or clogged injectors
- 7 Check wiring and connectors at the fuel pump, fuel pump driver module, and fuel pressure sensor for corrosion or damage

Fuel delivery faults often misdiagnosed

- A restricted fuel filter is a common cause that is frequently overlooked because it does not always set a lean code until the restriction becomes severe.
- The fuel pump driver module on Ford vehicles is known to fail due to corrosion, causing intermittent low fuel pressure without triggering a pump circuit code.
- P1180 can be set by a vacuum leak after the mass airflow sensor, which leans the mixture and mimics a fuel delivery problem, so always check for unmetered air first.
- Low fuel pressure may not produce drivability symptoms until the engine is under load, so a road test with a fuel pressure gauge taped to the windshield is often necessary.
- Replacing the fuel pump without verifying power and ground at the connector can lead to a repeat failure if the underlying wiring fault is not addressed.

Can I keep driving with P1180?

You can drive the vehicle short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration, towing, or sustained high-speed driving because a lean condition can cause overheating and catalytic converter damage. If the engine stalls or runs very poorly, stop driving and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

- Fuel pressure gauge
- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Fuel line disconnect tool
- Hand tools (wrenches, sockets)
- Vacuum gauge



Reading P1180

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

Often seen with

P0087 Fuel Rail/System Pressure - Too Low · **P0171** System Too Lean (Bank 1) · **P0174** System Too Lean (Bank 2) · **P0191** Fuel Rail Pressure Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0230** Fuel Pump Primary Circuit Malfunction

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Car Won't Start? Step-by-Step No-Start Diagnosis](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/ford-p1180/>

