

GM · POWERTRAIN

P1486

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1486 · GM

Evap Leak Monitor Pinched Hose

P1486 on GM vehicles indicates the engine computer has detected a restriction in the evaporative emission (EVAP) system's leak detection path, specifically a pinched or blocked hose that prevents the tank pressure sensor from seeing the expected pressure change during a self-test. The computer runs a diagnostic by applying vacuum or pressure and watching the sensor response; when the response is too slow or absent, it flags the hose as pinched or obstructed.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

GM specific

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Auxiliary emission controls

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other symptoms
- A slight fuel odor may be present if the pinched hose also causes a small leak
- In rare cases, a rough idle or stumble if the pinched hose affects purge flow
- No noticeable performance change in most instances
- Failed emissions test due to the stored code
- Intermittent warning light if the hose is only partially pinched and the fault is not present every drive cycle

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Physically pinched, kinked, or crushed EVAP hose between the tank pressure sensor and the fuel tank or canister
- 2 Hose routed incorrectly after previous service, causing it to be trapped or bent sharply
- 3 Debris or foreign object blocking the hose internally
- 4 Collapsed or deteriorated hose that restricts flow without an external pinch
- 5 Faulty fuel tank pressure sensor not responding correctly, mimicking a pinched hose
- 6 Sticking or failed EVAP canister purge or vent valve affecting the pressure test
- 7 Damage to the hose from road debris, heat, or rodent chewing



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the entire EVAP hose routing from the tank pressure sensor to the fuel tank and canister for kinks, pinches, or misrouting, correcting any found.
- 2 Disconnect the suspect hose and check for internal blockage by blowing through it or using a smoke machine to verify flow.
- 3 Command the EVAP system through a scan tool bidirectional test to observe tank pressure sensor response and confirm the restriction.
- 4 Compare the tank pressure sensor reading with a known-good sensor or use a pressure gauge to verify sensor accuracy.
- 5 Replace any hose that is collapsed, deteriorated, or permanently deformed, ensuring correct routing and secure connections.
- 6 If the hose is clear, test the purge and vent valves for proper operation and replace if sticking or failed.
- 7 Clear the code and perform a drive cycle to verify the repair and ensure the monitor runs to completion.

Pinched hose or misdiagnosed sensor

- A pinched hose often results from careless routing after fuel pump or canister service, so always check recent repair history before replacing parts.
- The fuel tank pressure sensor can fail in a way that sets P1486, so verify sensor output with a scan tool before condemning the hose.
- A partially pinched hose may only set the code under certain temperature or fuel level conditions, making it intermittent and hard to catch.
- Rodent damage to EVAP hoses is common in some regions and can create a pinch-like restriction if nesting material blocks the line.
- This code does not always mean the hose itself is bad; a stuck EVAP vent valve can prevent the pressure test from completing and set a similar fault.

Can I keep driving with P1486?

The vehicle is safe to drive with P1486 because it does not affect engine performance or safety, but avoid topping off the fuel tank and have the system inspected soon to prevent a small leak from worsening. The check engine light will remain on until the fault is repaired and the monitor runs.

Tools that help

- Scan tool with bidirectional EVAP controls
- Smoke machine
- Hand vacuum pump
- Flashlight and mirror for hose inspection
- Basic hand tools for hose removal



Reading P1486

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (GM): its meaning depends on the make.
- 4** Auxiliary emission controls.
- 86** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0440 Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction · **P0442** EVAP System Leak Detected (Small) · **P0453** Evaporative Emission System Pressure Sensor/Switch High · **P0455** EVAP System Leak Detected (Large) · **P0456** Evaporative Emission System Leak Detected (very small leak)

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/gm-p1486/>

