

HONDA · POWERTRAIN

P1205

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1205 · Honda

Cylinder 5 Misfire

P1205 is a Honda-specific code indicating that the powertrain control module has detected a misfire on cylinder 5, typically by monitoring crankshaft speed fluctuations. The computer sets this code when the misfire rate exceeds a calibrated threshold that could damage the catalytic converter or affect emissions.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Honda specific	High	Intermediate	Fuel and air metering (injector circuits)

Symptoms you may notice

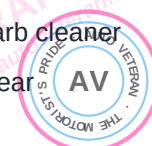
- Illumination of the check engine light, often flashing if the misfire is severe
- Noticeable engine vibration or shaking, especially at idle or under light acceleration
- Rough running with a loss of power or hesitation during acceleration
- A distinct exhaust note that may sound uneven or popping
- Reduced fuel economy due to unburned fuel entering the exhaust
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light when the misfire is intermittent or mild

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Worn or fouled spark plug in cylinder 5
- 2 Faulty ignition coil or spark plug wire for cylinder 5
- 3 Clogged or failing fuel injector for cylinder 5
- 4 Vacuum leak affecting cylinder 5 intake runner
- 5 Low compression due to worn piston rings, valves, or head gasket
- 6 Faulty variable valve timing solenoid or oil control valve affecting cylinder 5
- 7 Engine mechanical issues such as a collapsed lifter or worn camshaft lobe

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of cylinder 5 ignition components and wiring for damage or corrosion
- 2 Swap the ignition coil from cylinder 5 with a known-good cylinder and see if the misfire moves
- 3 Remove and inspect the spark plug from cylinder 5 for wear, fouling, or incorrect gap; replace if necessary
- 4 Run a compression test on cylinder 5 and compare with other cylinders to rule out mechanical faults
- 5 Test the fuel injector for cylinder 5 for resistance and pulse signal, and clean or replace if faulty
- 6 Check for vacuum leaks at the intake manifold and cylinder 5 runner using a smoke machine or carb cleaner
- 7 If all above check out, perform a cylinder leak-down test and inspect valve train components for wear



Cylinder 5 misfire: look beyond the ignition coil

- A misfire on only one cylinder often points to a localized issue such as a faulty injector or vacuum leak, but Honda engines are known for valve clearance problems that can cause single-cylinder misfires when neglected.
- The P1205 code can be set by a marginal ignition coil that tests fine with a simple resistance check but breaks down under load; swapping coils is a more reliable diagnostic step.
- Honda's variable valve timing system can cause a single-cylinder misfire if the oil control valve for that cylinder's bank is sticking, so check oil condition and solenoid function.
- A flashing check engine light with P1205 indicates a misfire severe enough to damage the catalytic converter; driving with a flashing light can lead to costly repairs beyond the misfire itself.
- Sometimes a P1205 is stored due to a loose or damaged connector at the ignition coil or injector, so always inspect the harness before replacing parts.

Can I keep driving with P1205?

If the check engine light is flashing, stop driving immediately and have the vehicle towed to avoid catalytic converter damage. If the light is steady, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing and get it diagnosed promptly.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner with live data and misfire counter capability
- Digital multimeter for testing coils and injectors
- Compression tester
- Spark plug socket and wrench
- Vacuum gauge or smoke machine
- Mechanic's stethoscope for listening to injectors and mechanical noises

Reading P1205

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



Often seen with

P1203 Cylinder 3 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1201** Cylinder 1 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1202** Cylinder 2 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1203** Cylinder 3 Misfire · **P1201** Cylinder 1 Misfire · **P1202** Cylinder 2 Misfire · **P1203** Cylinder 3 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1201** Cylinder 1 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1202** Cylinder 2 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1202** Cylinder 2 Misfire · **P1203** Cylinder 3 Misfire · **P1201** Cylinder 1 Misfire · **P1202** Alternative Fuel Gas Mass Sensor Circuit Low Frequency · **P1203** Alternative Fuel Gas Mass Sensor Circuit High Frequency · **P1201** Alternative Fuel Gas Mass Sensor Circuit Range Performance · **P1202** (Alternative Fuel) Gas Mass Sensor Circuit Low Frequency · **P1203** (Alternative Fuel) Gas Mass Sensor Circuit High Frequency · **P1201** (Alternative Fuel) Gas Mass Sensor Circuit Range/Performance · **P0300** Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P0305** Cylinder 5 Misfire Detected

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [Four-Stroke Engine Cutaway: Intake to Exhaust](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/honda-p1205/>

