

HONDA · POWERTRAIN

P1304

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1304 · Honda

Cylinder 4 Misfire

P1304 on a Honda means the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a misfire specifically on cylinder 4, usually by monitoring crankshaft speed fluctuations that occur when that cylinder fails to contribute power. The code is set when the misfire count exceeds a threshold that can damage the catalytic converter, and it often accompanies a flashing check engine light during the misfire event.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Honda specific	High	Intermediate	Ignition system and misfire

Symptoms you may notice

- A steady or flashing check engine light, with flashing indicating a misfire severe enough to damage the catalytic converter
- Noticeable engine shaking or vibration at idle that may smooth out at higher rpm
- Rough running, hesitation, or a distinct loss of power under acceleration
- A pungent rotten-egg smell from the exhaust if unburned fuel reaches the catalytic converter
- Poor fuel economy and a richer-running engine as the PCM adds fuel to compensate
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light when the misfire is intermittent or only occurs under specific load conditions

Common causes, most likely first

- Worn or fouled spark plug on cylinder 4, especially on Honda engines with high mileage or extended service intervals
- Failed ignition coil or coil-on-plug boot for cylinder 4, a common failure on Honda four-cylinder engines
- A clogged or failing fuel injector on cylinder 4 causing a lean or uneven fuel delivery
- Low compression on cylinder 4 from worn piston rings, a burned valve, or a leaking head gasket
- Vacuum leaks or intake manifold gasket leaks near cylinder 4 that lean out that specific runner
- A faulty PCM or wiring issue in the cylinder 4 ignition coil circuit, though this is less common
- Mechanical valvetrain problems such as a worn rocker arm or a sticking valve on cylinder 4



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all stored codes and freeze-frame data, then perform a cylinder balance test or misfire counter check to confirm cylinder 4 is the only affected cylinder
- 2 Inspect the spark plug on cylinder 4 for fouling, wear, or incorrect gap, and replace it if worn or damaged
- 3 Swap the ignition coil from cylinder 4 with a known-good coil from another cylinder and see if the misfire follows the coil
- 4 Check the fuel injector on cylinder 4 by listening for a consistent click or performing an injector balance test, and clean or replace it if necessary
- 5 Perform a compression test and a cylinder leak-down test on cylinder 4 to rule out mechanical faults such as bad rings or valves
- 6 Smoke-test the intake system to find vacuum leaks that could affect cylinder 4 specifically
- 7 Inspect the wiring harness and connector at the cylinder 4 ignition coil and injector for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins

Cylinder 4 misfire traps Honda owners fall into

- A P1304 code on a Honda is often caused by a failing ignition coil that tests fine when cold but breaks down under load, so a simple resistance check may not reveal the fault.
- Honda V6 engines with variable cylinder management (VCM) can set a cylinder 4 misfire when the VCM system disables cylinders, and the misfire may be a symptom of a faulty VCM solenoid rather than a bad plug or coil.
- A dirty or failing mass airflow sensor (MAF) can cause a lean condition that affects cylinder 4 more than others, setting a misfire code without any ignition component being at fault.
- A leaking intake manifold gasket on Honda engines often causes a misfire on a single cylinder, and the leak may only appear when the engine is cold or at idle.
- Do not replace the catalytic converter based on a P1304 alone; the misfire must be repaired first, and the converter may recover once the misfire stops.

Can I keep driving with P1304?

If the check engine light is flashing, stop driving immediately and have the vehicle towed, because a flashing light means the misfire is severe enough to overheat and destroy the catalytic converter. If the light is steady, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid hard acceleration and prolonged driving until the misfire is diagnosed.



Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and misfire counter capability
- Spark plug socket and ratchet set
- Compression tester
- Fuel injector balance tester or noid light
- Vacuum gauge or smoke machine
- Digital multimeter for coil and wiring checks

Reading P1304

P Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.

1 Manufacturer-specific code (Honda): its meaning depends on the make.

3 Ignition system and misfire.

04 The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0300 Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P0301** Cylinder 1 Misfire Detected · **P0302** Cylinder 2 Misfire Detected · **P0303** Cylinder 3 Misfire Detected · **P0304** Cylinder 4 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-p1304/>

