



P1205 · Nissan

Cylinder 5 Misfire

P1205 on Nissan vehicles indicates that the engine control module (ECM) has detected a misfire specifically on cylinder 5, typically by monitoring crankshaft speed fluctuations that occur when that cylinder fails to contribute power. The ECM sets this code when the misfire count exceeds a calibrated threshold, often within a specific engine speed and load window.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Check engine light illuminated, often flashing if the misfire is severe enough to damage the catalytic converter
- Noticeable engine shake or vibration at idle, especially when cold
- Rough running or hesitation during acceleration
- Reduced power and poor fuel economy
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light when the misfire is intermittent or mild
- A sulfur or rotten egg smell from the exhaust if unburned fuel reaches the catalytic converter

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Worn or fouled spark plug on cylinder 5
- 2 Failed ignition coil or coil-on-plug boot for cylinder 5
- 3 Faulty fuel injector for cylinder 5, including clogged nozzle or electrical failure
- 4 Vacuum leak at the intake manifold runner or gasket near cylinder 5
- 5 Low compression on cylinder 5 due to worn rings, valve seat issues, or head gasket failure
- 6 Damaged or chafed wiring to the cylinder 5 coil or injector
- 7 Mechanical valvetrain fault such as a collapsed lifter or worn cam lobe on cylinder 5



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all stored and pending codes with a capable scan tool to confirm P1205 and check for related misfire or fuel trim codes
- 2 Perform a visual inspection of the cylinder 5 ignition coil, spark plug, and injector connector for damage or corrosion
- 3 Swap the cylinder 5 ignition coil with a known-good coil from another cylinder and see if the misfire follows the coil
- 4 Remove and inspect the cylinder 5 spark plug for wear, fouling, or incorrect gap, and replace if necessary
- 5 Run a compression test and, if low, a cylinder leak-down test on cylinder 5 to rule out mechanical faults
- 6 Test the cylinder 5 fuel injector for resistance, pulse signal, and spray pattern, and clean or replace as needed
- 7 Check for vacuum leaks around the intake manifold and inspect wiring continuity from the ECM to the coil and injector

Why cylinder 5 misfires are often misdiagnosed

- A misfire code for a single cylinder does not always mean the ignition coil is at fault; fuel injector imbalance and vacuum leaks are common culprits that many technicians overlook.
- Nissan engines with variable valve timing can set a single-cylinder misfire code when oil control valve debris affects cam phasing, mimicking an ignition fault.
- A flashing check engine light indicates a misfire severe enough to overheat the catalytic converter, so continuing to drive can turn a cheap repair into an expensive converter replacement.
- Compression and leak-down tests are often skipped in favor of parts swapping, but a mechanical fault on cylinder 5 will not be fixed by new coils or plugs.
- Intermittent misfires that only appear when the engine is cold or under light load can be caused by a sticking injector or a marginal coil that tests fine when warm.

Can I keep driving with P1205?

If the check engine light is steady, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration and prolonged idling. If the light is flashing, stop driving immediately and have the vehicle towed, because a severe misfire can destroy the catalytic converter and cause further engine damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live misfire data and fuel trim capability
- Spark plug socket and torque wrench
- Compression gauge
- Cylinder leak-down tester
- Digital multimeter for injector and coil testing
- Mechanic's stethoscope or noid light for injector pulse testing



Reading P1205

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

Often seen with

P1204 Cylinder 4 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1206** Cylinder 6 Fuel Injector Circuit Electrical Malfunction · **P1204** Cylinder 4 Misfire · **P1206** Cylinder 6 Misfire · **P1204** Cylinder 4 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1206** Cylinder 6 Injector Circuit Open/Shorted · **P1204** Cylinder 4 Misfire · **P1206** Cylinder 6 Misfire · **P0171** System Too Lean (Bank 1) · **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/nissan-p1205/>

