

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0200

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0200

Injector Circuit Malfunction

P0200 is a generic OBD-II code indicating that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a malfunction in the fuel injector circuit, typically an open or shorted electrical path. The PCM monitors injector command signals and circuit feedback, and when the voltage or current falls outside the expected range for a calibrated time, it sets this code. This code points to the wiring, connectors, or driver circuitry rather than a single injector's mechanical performance.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Fuel and air metering (injector circuits)

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or misfire that may worsen under load
- Engine hesitation or stumble during acceleration
- Reduced fuel economy due to improper fuel delivery
- Hard starting or stalling, especially when the circuit fault is intermittent
- Possible rich or lean exhaust smell if injector pulse width is affected

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty or corroded injector harness connector or pins
- 2 Open or shorted wire in the injector circuit (power or ground side)
- 3 Failed fuel injector with an internal short or open coil
- 4 PCM driver circuit failure (less common but possible)
- 5 Poor ground connection for the injector circuit
- 6 Damaged wiring from rodent damage, chafing, or heat exposure



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of injector connectors and wiring for corrosion, damage, or loose pins
- 2 Use a scan tool to check for related misfire or injector-specific codes and view live injector pulse data
- 3 Measure injector coil resistance with a multimeter and compare to manufacturer specifications
- 4 Check for voltage and ground signals at each injector connector with a noid light or oscilloscope while cranking
- 5 Inspect and test the injector circuit wiring for continuity, shorts to ground, and shorts to power
- 6 If wiring and injectors test good, test the PCM driver circuit or substitute a known-good PCM for diagnosis
- 7 Repair or replace the faulty component (connector, wire, injector, or PCM) and clear the code to verify the repair

What P0200 Often Really Means

- A single failed injector can set P0200 on some systems, but the code often indicates a circuit-wide issue such as a shared power feed or ground rather than one injector.
Intermittent P0200 codes are frequently caused by a chafed wire that only shorts when the engine moves or the vehicle hits a bump, so wiggle-testing the harness while watching live data is essential.
- Some vehicles set P0200 when the injector circuit is fine but the PCM's internal driver fails, which is why testing the PCM output with a noid light or scope is a critical step before replacing injectors.
- A weak battery or poor charging system can cause voltage spikes that mimic injector circuit faults, so always verify battery and ground integrity before condemning expensive parts.

P0200 can be stored alongside misfire codes like P0300, but the misfire may be a symptom of the injector circuit fault rather than a separate ignition problem.

Can I keep driving with P0200?

Driving with P0200 is possible but not recommended for long distances because a faulty injector circuit can cause misfires that damage the catalytic converter and reduce engine performance. Avoid heavy acceleration or towing until the fault is diagnosed and repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Noid light or oscilloscope
- Wiring diagram for the injector circuit
- Basic hand tools for connector and wire inspection



Reading P0200

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 2** Fuel and air metering (injector circuits).
- 00** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0171 System Too Lean (Bank 1) · **P0201** Injector Circuit Malfunction - Cylinder 1 · **P0202** Injector Circuit Malfunction - Cylinder 2 · **P0300** Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P0301** Cylinder 1 Misfire Detected

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/p0200/>

