

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0344

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0344

Camshaft Position Sensor A Circuit Intermittent

P0344 indicates that the engine control module (ECM) has detected an intermittent fault in the camshaft position sensor 'A' circuit, meaning the signal from the sensor is not consistently reaching the computer. The ECM sets this code when the camshaft position signal drops out or becomes erratic for a brief period, often during specific operating conditions such as cranking or sudden RPM changes.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Ignition system and misfire

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Intermittent engine stalling or rough running, especially when the engine is cold or under load
- Difficulty starting or extended cranking times, particularly when the engine is warm
- Reduced engine performance or hesitation during acceleration
- In some cases, the engine may enter limp mode or exhibit poor fuel economy

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty camshaft position sensor (internal intermittent failure due to heat or age)
- 2 Damaged or chafed wiring in the sensor circuit, often near connectors or where the harness bends
- 3 Corroded, loose, or contaminated electrical connectors at the sensor or ECM
- 4 Poor ground connection for the sensor or ECM, causing voltage fluctuations
- 5 Electrical interference from aftermarket accessories or faulty ignition components
- 6 Worn camshaft phaser or timing chain components causing erratic sensor signal (less common)

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of the sensor, wiring, and connectors for obvious damage or corrosion
- 2 Use a scan tool to check for pending or stored codes and freeze frame data to identify the conditions when the fault occurred
- 3 Backprobe the sensor connector with a multimeter or oscilloscope to check for a consistent signal while wiggling the harness
- 4 Check the sensor's power and ground circuits for voltage drops and continuity
- 5 Replace the camshaft position sensor if testing indicates an intermittent internal fault
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring and connectors as needed, then clear codes and verify the repair with a test drive

Intermittent faults often hide in the harness

- A common oversight is replacing the sensor without checking the wiring harness, which often suffers from chafing or heat damage that causes intermittent signals.
- The code can be set by a poor engine ground or a failing alternator that introduces electrical noise into the sensor circuit, so checking charging system health is wise.
- In some vehicles, a weak camshaft position sensor signal may not set a code until the engine is under specific load or temperature conditions, making it hard to reproduce.
- Aftermarket sensors are known to have higher failure rates than OEM parts, so a new sensor does not always guarantee a fix if the root cause is elsewhere.
- This code can sometimes be triggered by a failing crankshaft position sensor due to shared circuitry or ECM strategy, so don't overlook related sensors.

Can I keep driving with P0344?

If the check engine light is on but the engine runs normally, you can drive cautiously to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration or long trips. If the engine stalls, runs rough, or is hard to start, stop driving and have the vehicle towed to prevent safety risks.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Oscilloscope (optional but helpful for signal analysis)
- Basic hand tools (sockets, wrenches, screwdrivers)
- Electrical contact cleaner and dielectric grease

Reading P0344

P	Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
0	Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
3	Ignition system and misfire.
44	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0335 Crankshaft Position Sensor A Circuit Malfunction · **P0340** Camshaft Position Sensor A Circuit Malfunction (Bank 1) · **P0341** Camshaft Position Sensor A Circuit Range/Performance · **P0342** Camshaft Position Sensor A Circuit Low Input · **P0343** Camshaft Position Sensor A Circuit High Input



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/p0344/>

