

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0360

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0360

Ignition Coil 'J' Primary/Secondary Circuit

P0360 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an abnormal condition in the primary or secondary circuit of ignition coil 'J', which is one of the individual coils in a coil-on-plug or distributorless ignition system. The PCM monitors coil performance and circuit integrity, and when the current or voltage falls outside the expected range, it sets this code and may disable the affected cylinder to protect the catalytic converter.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Ignition system and misfire

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or misfire sensation, especially when the engine is cold or under load
- Noticeable loss of power and reduced fuel economy
- Shaking or vibration during acceleration
- Difficulty starting or prolonged cranking in severe cases
- A flashing check engine light if the misfire is severe enough to damage the catalytic converter

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty ignition coil 'J' (primary or secondary winding failure)
- 2 Worn or damaged spark plug or spark plug boot
- 3 Damaged or corroded wiring and connectors at the coil or PCM
- 4 Open or shorted circuit in the coil primary or secondary wiring
- 5 Poor ground connection for the ignition coil circuit
- 6 Failed ignition control module or driver circuit inside the PCM (less common)



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of coil 'J', its connector, and the spark plug; look for cracks, corrosion, or oil contamination
- 2 Swap coil 'J' with a known-good coil from another cylinder and see if the misfire follows the coil (if applicable)
- 3 Use a multimeter to check the primary and secondary resistance of coil 'J' against the manufacturer's specification
- 4 Check for battery voltage and ground at the coil connector with the key on, and inspect the wiring harness for damage
- 5 Test the spark plug and replace it if worn or fouled; ensure the correct gap and torque
- 6 If the coil and wiring test good, check the ignition control signal from the PCM with an oscilloscope or a noid light
- 7 Replace the faulty ignition coil 'J' if it fails resistance or performance tests, and clear the code to verify the repair

Coil 'J' circuit faults often misdiagnosed

- A failed spark plug or boot can damage the ignition coil over time, so replacing only the coil without addressing the plug often leads to a repeat failure.
- The PCM may set P0360 even when the coil still fires intermittently; a coil that tests good cold can break down when hot, so testing after the engine is at operating temperature is crucial.
- Corroded or loose pins in the coil connector are a frequent cause that is easily overlooked, and simply reseating the connector may temporarily cure the fault.
- On some vehicles, a faulty ignition coil can back-feed voltage into the PCM driver circuit, damaging it; always check for excessive current draw before installing a new coil.
- P0360 is often accompanied by a misfire code for the same cylinder, but the absence of a misfire code does not rule out a coil problem because the PCM may not have detected enough misfires yet.

Can I keep driving with P0360?

It is generally safe to drive with P0360 if the check engine light is steady and the engine runs smoothly, but avoid heavy acceleration or towing until the fault is repaired. If the check engine light flashes or the engine misfires noticeably, stop driving as soon as possible to prevent catalytic converter damage.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scanner
- Digital multimeter
- Spark tester
- Socket set and torque wrench
- Oscilloscope (optional for signal testing)



Reading P0360

- 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.
- 60** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0300 Random/Multiple Cylinder Misfire Detected · **P0301** Cylinder 1 Misfire Detected · **P0350** Ignition Coil Primary/Secondary Circuit · **P0351** Ignition Coil A Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction · **P0352** Ignition Coil B Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction

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/p0360/>

