

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0382

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0382

Glow Plug/Heater Circuit 'B'

P0382 indicates that the engine control module has detected a fault in the glow plug or heater circuit designated as 'B', which typically serves a specific cylinder or bank on diesel engines. The computer monitors the circuit's electrical characteristics and sets this code when the voltage or current falls outside the expected range during the glow plug's activation period.

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

Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Hard starting or rough idle when the engine is cold
- Excessive white smoke from the exhaust after a cold start
- Longer cranking times before the engine fires
- Reduced fuel economy during warm-up
- Misfire or stumbling shortly after a cold start

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failed glow plug on the affected cylinder
- 2 Damaged or corroded electrical connector at the glow plug
- 3 Open or shorted glow plug wiring harness
- 4 Faulty glow plug control module or relay
- 5 Blown fuse or poor ground connection in the glow plug circuit
- 6 Engine control module software or internal fault (rare)

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for stored codes and record freeze-frame data to confirm the fault is current
- 2 Visually inspect the glow plug, connector, and wiring for damage, corrosion, or looseness
- 3 Measure the resistance of the suspect glow plug and compare it to the manufacturer's specification
- 4 Check for battery voltage and ground at the glow plug connector during the glow plug activation period
- 5 Test the glow plug control module and relay for proper operation and continuity
- 6 Repair or replace any damaged wiring, connectors, or the faulty glow plug as needed
- 7 Clear the codes and verify the repair by performing a cold-start test and rechecking for pending codes



Don't overlook the glow plug control module

- A glow plug that tests good on a bench may still fail under load, so always check circuit voltage drop while the plug is commanded on.
- Corroded connectors at the glow plug tips are a frequent cause of P0382 that visual inspection alone can miss.
- The code can be set by a faulty glow plug control module even when all individual glow plugs test within specification.
- On some vehicles, a weak battery or charging system can trigger glow plug circuit codes due to low voltage during cranking.
- P0382 specifically refers to circuit 'B', so confirm which cylinder or bank that corresponds to before replacing parts.

Can I keep driving with P0382?

You can generally drive the vehicle, but cold starting may be difficult and prolonged driving with a faulty glow plug can lead to carbon buildup or further electrical damage. Avoid heavy loads and extended idling until the fault is repaired.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Glow plug removal socket
- Test light
- Factory service information for circuit specifications

Reading P0382

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.
82	The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0380 Glow Plug/Heater Circuit A Malfunction · **P0381** Glow Plug/Heater Indicator Circuit Malfunction · **P0383** Glow Plug Control Module 1 Control Circuit Low · **P0384** Glow Plug Control Module 1 Control Circuit High · **P0670** Glow Plug Module Control Circuit



See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How a Turbocharger Works, Step by Step](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p0382/>

