

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P0469

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P0469

EVAP Purge Flow Sensor Circuit Intermittent

P0469 indicates that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected an intermittent fault in the electrical circuit of the evaporative emission (EVAP) purge flow sensor, which is used to measure the actual flow of fuel vapor from the charcoal canister into the intake manifold. The PCM monitors the sensor signal for expected voltage or frequency changes during purge events, and it sets this code when the signal drops out or becomes erratic for a calibrated period, rather than being completely open or shorted.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Generic (all makes)

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Auxiliary emission controls

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms.
- A slight fuel odor may be present around the vehicle if the purge system is not functioning correctly.
- In rare cases, a rough idle or stumble may occur if the purge valve is stuck open and the sensor intermittently reports no flow.
- The driver may notice a decrease in fuel economy, though this is not guaranteed.
- In some vehicles, the remote start or EVAP system self-test may be inhibited, preventing certain features from working.

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 A faulty EVAP purge flow sensor with an intermittent internal electrical fault.
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring or connector terminals at the purge flow sensor or PCM.
- 3 A sticking or intermittently failing purge solenoid valve that causes erratic flow readings.
- 4 A clogged or restricted EVAP purge line or canister, leading to inconsistent sensor signals.
- 5 A poor electrical ground connection for the sensor or PCM, causing voltage fluctuations.
- 6 A PCM software glitch or internal fault that misinterprets the sensor signal (less common).



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect the purge flow sensor connector and wiring for signs of corrosion, chafing, or loose pins, and repair as needed.
- 2 Check the sensor's electrical connector for proper voltage and ground signals using a digital multimeter, following the manufacturer's test procedure.
- 3 Test the purge solenoid valve for proper operation and resistance, and replace it if it sticks or fails to actuate.
- 4 Inspect the EVAP purge lines and canister for blockages or damage, and clear or replace components as necessary.
- 5 Perform a wiggle test on the sensor wiring while monitoring live data to identify intermittent connections.
- 6 If all electrical and mechanical checks pass, replace the EVAP purge flow sensor with a known-good unit.
- 7 Clear the diagnostic trouble codes and verify the repair by running the EVAP monitor to completion.

Intermittent EVAP Sensor Faults Often Misdiagnosed

- A common oversight is replacing the purge flow sensor when the real problem is a sticking purge solenoid valve that causes erratic flow and intermittent sensor signals.
- The code can be set by a poor ground connection at the PCM or sensor, which is often overlooked during diagnosis because the sensor itself tests fine.
- In some vehicles, the EVAP purge flow sensor is integrated into the purge valve assembly, so a sensor fault may require replacing the entire unit rather than just the sensor.
- Intermittent faults like P0469 may not illuminate the check engine light immediately; they often require multiple drive cycles with specific conditions to set, making them hard to reproduce.
- A clogged EVAP canister or restricted purge line can cause the sensor to report intermittent flow, mimicking a sensor failure, so always inspect the entire EVAP system.

Can I keep driving with P0469?

The vehicle is generally safe to drive with this code because it does not affect engine performance or safety systems, but you should avoid topping off the fuel tank and schedule a diagnostic inspection soon to prevent potential EVAP system complications.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data capability
- Digital multimeter
- Hand tools for connector and component removal
- Vacuum pump or smoke machine for EVAP system testing
- Wiring diagram for the specific vehicle



Reading P0469

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 0** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 4** Auxiliary emission controls.
- 69** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0440 Evaporative Emission Control System Malfunction · **P0442** EVAP System Leak Detected (Small) · **P0455** EVAP System Leak Detected (Large) · **P0456** Evaporative Emission System Leak Detected (very small leak) · **P0496** Evaporative Emission System High Purge Flow

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/p0469/>

