

GENERIC · POWERTRAIN

P2526

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P2526

Vacuum Reservoir Pressure Sensor Circuit Range/Performance

P2526 means the engine control module (ECM) has detected that the vacuum reservoir pressure sensor signal is outside its expected range or is not performing plausibly during key-on or running tests. The ECM compares the sensor voltage against a modeled vacuum value and flags the code when the two disagree beyond a calibrated threshold.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Powertrain	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Reduced engine performance or hesitation during acceleration if the fault affects vacuum-assisted systems
- HVAC air flow defaults to defrost mode because the vacuum reservoir cannot store vacuum for mode door operation
- A hissing sound from the engine bay or under the dashboard from a leaking vacuum reservoir or hose
- Intermittent or weak brake assist feel if the reservoir shares vacuum with the brake booster on some designs

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Cracked or disconnected vacuum hose between the reservoir, intake manifold, and pressure sensor
- 2 Failed vacuum reservoir pressure sensor giving an erratic or out-of-range signal
- 3 Leaking vacuum reservoir tank due to corrosion or a cracked seam
- 4 Wiring fault in the sensor reference, signal, or ground circuit such as chafing or corrosion
- 5 Sticking or failed vacuum check valve that prevents the reservoir from holding vacuum
- 6 Engine vacuum leak elsewhere that lowers reservoir vacuum below the expected range
- 7 Faulty ECM driver or internal processing error, though this is rare



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Inspect all vacuum hoses and connections at the reservoir, sensor, and intake manifold for cracks, splits, or disconnection
- 2 Use a hand vacuum pump to test the reservoir and check valve for the ability to hold vacuum
- 3 Backprobe the sensor connector and compare signal voltage to the manufacturer's specification at key-on and during vacuum application
- 4 Check the sensor reference voltage and ground circuits with a multimeter for opens, shorts, or excessive resistance
- 5 Perform a smoke test on the intake and vacuum system to locate hidden leaks that affect reservoir vacuum
- 6 Replace the vacuum reservoir pressure sensor if electrical and vacuum tests confirm it is out of range
- 7 Clear the code and verify repair by running the monitor to completion and confirming no return of P2526

Vacuum reservoir faults that fool technicians

- A missing or disconnected vacuum hose at the reservoir is often overlooked because the engine may run normally and the only clue is the check engine light.
- The vacuum reservoir pressure sensor can be misdiagnosed as a faulty ECM when a simple chafed signal wire is the real cause of the range error.
- On some vehicles the reservoir also supplies vacuum to the HVAC mode doors, so a default to defrost is a strong hint that the reservoir is not holding vacuum.
- A leaking brake booster or check valve can drain the reservoir and set P2526 even though the reservoir itself is intact.
- The code can set intermittently from a sticking check valve that only fails under certain temperature or engine load conditions.

Can I keep driving with P2526?

You can usually continue driving with P2526, but avoid towing or heavy loads if you notice reduced engine performance or weak brake assist. Have the vacuum system inspected soon to prevent secondary issues with HVAC or brake assist.

Tools that help

- Hand vacuum pump with gauge
- Digital multimeter
- Smoke machine
- OBD-II scan tool
- Hose clamp pliers



Reading P2526

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 2** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 5** Vehicle speed, idle control and auxiliary inputs.
- 26** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0171 System Too Lean (Bank 1) · **P0442** EVAP System Leak Detected (Small) · **P0455** EVAP System Leak Detected (Large) · **P2525** Vacuum Reservoir Pressure Sensor Circuit · **P2527** Vacuum Reservoir Pressure Sensor Circuit Low

See it working

Watch the animated explainer [How Push-Button Start Works: Keyless Ignition](#) on Auto Veteran to see the parts involved moving.

Full guide, related articles and animations: <https://www.autoveteran.tech/dtc-codes/p2526/>

