

GENERIC · NETWORK

U3573

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

U3573

Coolant Mixing Valve Control Circuit

U3573 is a generic network code indicating that the powertrain control module (PCM) has detected a fault in the electrical circuit that controls the coolant mixing valve, which regulates coolant flow between the engine, heater core, and radiator. The PCM monitors the control circuit for expected voltage or current changes when commanding the valve, and it sets this code when the feedback does not match the command, indicating an open, short, or component failure.

SYSTEM	CODE TYPE	SEVERITY	FIX DIFFICULTY	AREA
Network	Generic (all makes)	Medium	Intermediate	Network communication

Symptoms you may notice

- Illumination of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) on the dashboard
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light, especially if the valve fails in a default position
- Incorrect cabin heater performance, such as blowing cold air when heat is requested
- Engine temperature fluctuations or prolonged warm-up times
- Reduced fuel economy or increased emissions due to improper coolant temperature management
- Possible activation of related cooling system codes or powertrain network codes

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty coolant mixing valve actuator or internal valve failure
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring harness or connector at the valve
- 3 Open or short circuit in the control circuit between the PCM and the valve
- 4 Blown fuse or poor ground connection for the valve circuit
- 5 PCM software issue or internal driver failure (less common)
- 6 Coolant contamination or debris causing the valve to seize
- 7 Aftermarket or incorrect valve replacement not compatible with the vehicle's system



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Perform a visual inspection of the coolant mixing valve, its connector, and wiring for damage, corrosion, or coolant leaks
- 2 Check the fuse and ground connections related to the valve circuit
- 3 Use a scan tool to command the valve and observe live data for actuator response and circuit feedback
- 4 Measure resistance and voltage at the valve connector to compare with manufacturer specifications
- 5 Test the control circuit for continuity and shorts between the PCM and the valve
- 6 If the circuit tests good, remove the valve and inspect for mechanical binding or debris; replace if faulty
- 7 After repair, clear the code and perform a road test to verify the fix and ensure the monitor runs to completion

Coolant Mixing Valve Circuit Pitfalls

- A coolant mixing valve that fails in a default position may not cause noticeable drivability issues, leading owners to ignore the code until secondary problems arise.
- Corrosion inside the valve connector is a frequent cause that can mimic a failed valve, so always inspect the pins before condemning the component.
- The PCM may set U3573 even when the valve is functioning mechanically but the feedback signal is intermittent due to a chafed wire.
- Some vehicles use the coolant mixing valve for both heater control and engine temperature management, so a fault can affect cabin comfort and emissions.
- After replacing the valve, some systems require a relearn or calibration procedure with a scan tool to prevent the code from returning.

Can I keep driving with U3573?

You can usually continue driving with this code, but avoid long trips or heavy loads until it is repaired, and monitor the engine temperature gauge for overheating. If the engine overheats or you lose cabin heat entirely, stop driving and seek service.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with live data and bidirectional control
- Digital multimeter
- Wire probe set
- Socket and ratchet set
- Vehicle service information for wiring diagrams and specifications



Reading U3573

- U** Network: communication between the vehicle's control modules.
- 3** Generic (SAE) code: it means the same thing on every OBD-II vehicle.
- 5** Network communication.
- 73** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P0128 Coolant Thermostat (Coolant Temperature Below Thermostat Reg · **P0597** Thermostat Heater Control Circuit/Open · **P0598** Thermostat Heater Control Circuit Low · **P2181** Cooling System Performance · **U0100** Lost Communication With ECM/PCM A

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/u3573/>

