

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1348

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1348 · Volkswagen

Ignition Coil Power Output Stage 1 Open

P1348 on Volkswagen vehicles indicates that the engine control module (ECM) has detected an open circuit in the power output stage for ignition coil 1, which is the final transistor inside the ECM that switches ground to the coil primary. The ECM monitors the coil driver circuit and sets this code when the expected current flow is absent, meaning the coil cannot be energized and that cylinder will not fire.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Volkswagen
specific

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Ignition system
and misfire

Symptoms you may notice

- Engine misfire, often felt as a rough idle or hesitation under acceleration
- Flashing or steady check engine light, sometimes accompanied by a traction control light
- Noticeable loss of power and poor fuel economy
- Shaking or vibration from the engine bay, especially at low speeds
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the misfire is mild or intermittent
- Hard starting or stalling in severe cases when multiple coils are affected

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Failed ignition coil with an open primary winding
- 2 Damaged or corroded wiring between the ECM and ignition coil 1
- 3 Loose or corroded electrical connector at the ignition coil or ECM
- 4 Open circuit inside the ECM driver for coil 1 (internal ECM failure)
- 5 Faulty spark plug or spark plug boot causing excessive resistance and coil stress
- 6 Aftermarket alarm or remote start wiring tapped into the coil circuit

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for fault codes and record freeze-frame data to confirm the misfire count on cylinder 1
- 2 Visually inspect the ignition coil 1 connector and wiring for corrosion, chafing, or loose pins
- 3 Swap ignition coil 1 with a known-good coil from another cylinder and see if the misfire moves
- 4 Measure resistance of the coil primary and secondary windings and compare with specifications
- 5 Check for battery voltage at the coil connector with the key on and inspect the ground circuit
- 6 Perform a continuity and voltage drop test on the signal wire between the ECM and coil 1
- 7 If wiring and coil test good, test the ECM driver output with an oscilloscope or known-good test lamp before replacing the ECM



Before you replace the ECM for P1348

- A failed ignition coil is the most common cause, but a corroded connector pin or chafed wire near the coil boot often mimics a coil failure and is missed during a quick visual check.
- Swapping coils between cylinders is the fastest way to confirm whether the fault follows the coil or stays with cylinder 1, and it costs nothing but time.
- An open power output stage inside the ECM is rare but possible; do not condemn the ECM until you have verified the coil, wiring, and connector with a load test.
- Aftermarket alarm or remote start installations that splice into ignition coil wiring are a frequent source of intermittent open circuits on older Volkswagen models.
- A weak spark plug or high-resistance plug boot can overload the coil driver over time, so always inspect the plug and boot when replacing a coil.

Can I keep driving with P1348?

You can drive short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration and long trips because unburned fuel from the misfiring cylinder can overheat and damage the catalytic converter. If the check engine light is flashing, stop driving and have the vehicle towed.

Tools that help

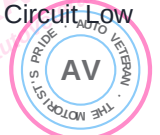
- OBD-II scan tool with misfire and freeze-frame data
- Digital multimeter for resistance and voltage checks
- Oscilloscope or logic probe for driver signal testing
- Socket set and Torx bits for coil removal
- Test light with adjustable load for circuit testing

Reading P1348

- P** Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.
- 1** Manufacturer-specific code (Volkswagen): its meaning depends on the make.
- 3** Ignition system and misfire.
- 48** The exact fault within that area.

Often seen with

P1349 Ignition Coil Power Output Stage 2 Open · **P1350** Ignition Coil Power Output Stage 3 Open · **P1349** VVT System · **P1350** VVT Sensor Circuit Malfunction Bank 2 · **P1350** Injection Sensor Solenoid · **P1349** Intake Camshaft Position System · **P1350** Ignition Control System · **P1350** Ignition Control System · **P1349** Misfire Cylinder 4 With Fuel Cut-off · **P1350** Misfire During Start Cylinder 5 · **P0301** Cylinder 1 Misfire Detected · **P0351** Ignition Coil A Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction · **P2300** Ignition Coil 'A' Primary Control Circuit Low



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/volkswagen-p1348/>

