

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1360

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1360 · Volkswagen

Cylinder 2 Ignition Circuit Short To Ground

P1360 on Volkswagen vehicles means the engine control module (ECM) has detected an abnormally low voltage or a direct short to ground on the ignition coil control circuit for cylinder 2. The ECM commands a spark event by pulling the coil primary circuit to ground, and it monitors the resulting current and voltage signature; when the circuit stays grounded longer than expected or the feedback voltage is near zero, this code is stored.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

**Volkswagen
specific**

SEVERITY

Medium

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

**Ignition system
and misfire**

Symptoms you may notice

- Check engine light illuminated, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- Rough idle or misfire felt as a shake or stumble, especially when cold
- Noticeable loss of power and poor acceleration under load
- Increased fuel consumption due to incomplete combustion in cylinder 2
- Occasional flashing check engine light if the misfire becomes severe enough to damage the catalytic converter
- Hard starting or stalling in more advanced cases where the short affects shared ignition power

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Ignition coil for cylinder 2 internally shorted to ground
- 2 Chafed or pinched wire in the cylinder 2 coil control circuit contacting engine metal
- 3 Corroded, loose, or backed-out terminal at the cylinder 2 coil connector
- 4 Faulty engine control module (ECM) driver for the cylinder 2 ignition circuit
- 5 Aftermarket alarm or remote start wiring tapped into the ignition harness and shorting
- 6 Oil or coolant contamination in the coil connector causing a conductive path to ground
- 7 Damaged ignition harness section near the cylinder head or intake manifold where heat and vibration are high



How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules and record freeze-frame data to confirm the fault is active and not a stored history code from a past repair
- 2 Inspect the cylinder 2 ignition coil connector and harness for corrosion, chafing, or oil intrusion, and repair terminals or replace damaged wire sections
- 3 Swap the cylinder 2 ignition coil with another cylinder and clear the code to see if the fault moves, which isolates a bad coil
- 4 Measure resistance from the cylinder 2 coil control wire to ground with the ECM disconnected; a reading near zero ohms confirms a short to ground in the harness
- 5 Check the ignition coil power supply and ground circuits for voltage drop under load, since a weak ground can mimic a short
- 6 If the harness and coil test good, perform an ECM driver test with a breakout box or oscilloscope to verify the ECM is not holding the circuit low internally
- 7 Replace the faulty ignition coil or repair the harness, clear the code, and road-test the vehicle through several drive cycles to confirm the repair

What a shorted coil driver really means

- A P1360 can be set by a coil that tests fine with a multimeter but breaks down internally only when hot, so a cold resistance check alone is not conclusive.
- Volkswagen ignition coils on the 1.8T and 2.0T engines are known for internal shorting that sets cylinder-specific codes, and swapping coils between cylinders is the fastest way to confirm the fault.
- The ECM driver for the ignition circuit can fail after a coil shorts, so replacing only the coil without checking the control wire can lead to a repeat failure.
- Aftermarket wiring for alarms or remote starters tapped into the coil harness is a common hidden cause of a short to ground that does not appear in factory service information.
- A P1360 does not always mean the coil is bad; a shorted wire rubbing on the engine lifting eye or intake bracket can set the same code with a perfectly good coil.

Can I keep driving with P1360?

You can drive the vehicle short distances to a repair shop, but avoid heavy acceleration and long trips because a persistent misfire on cylinder 2 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 Volkswagen-specific software or a capable generic scanner
- Digital multimeter with resistance and voltage measurement
- Oscilloscope or ignition probe for viewing coil control signals
- Breakout box or back-probe kit for ECM connector testing
- Socket set and Torx bits for coil removal
- Electrical contact cleaner and dielectric grease

Reading P1360

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

Often seen with

P1361 Cylinder 3 Ignition Circuit Open · **P1358** Cylinder 2 Ignition Circuit Open · **P1359** Cylinder 2 Ignition Circuit Short To B+ · **P1361** TDC Sensor Intermittent Interruption · **P1359** CKP TDC Sensor Circuit Connector Disconnection · **P1361** Ignition Coil B Secondary Circuit · **P1358** Ignition Diagnostic Monitor Signal Out Of Self Test Range · **P1359** SPOUT Signal Lost To Powertrain Control Module Or Out Of Ran · **P1361** Ignition Coil Cylinder 1 No Activation · **P1359** CKP TDC Sensor Circuit Connector Disconnection · **P1361** TDC Sensor Intermittent Interruption · **P1359** Ignition Control Circuit Group A · **P1361** IC Circuit Low Voltage · **P1358** IC Output High Pulse Detected When Grounded Cyl 8 · **P1359** Spark Output Circuit Fault · **P1361** Ignition Control IC Circuit Low Voltage · **P1358** Ignition Diagnostic Monitor Signal Out of Self-Test Range · **P1359** Ignition Control Circuit Group A · **P1361** IC Circuit Low Voltage · **P1358** IC Output High Pulse Detected When Grounded Cyl 8 · **P1359** Misfire Cylinder 9 With Fuel Cut-off · **P1361** Misfire Cylinder 10 With Fuel Cut-off · **P1358** Misfire During Start Cylinder 9 · **P0302** Cylinder 2 Misfire Detected · **P0352** Ignition Coil B Primary/Secondary Circuit Malfunction

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-p1360/>

