

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

P1364

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

P1364 · Volkswagen

Cylinder 4 Ignition Circuit Open

P1364 on a Volkswagen indicates that the engine control module (ECM) has detected an open circuit in the ignition coil circuit for cylinder 4, meaning the coil is not receiving the command signal or the circuit is broken. This results in a misfire on cylinder 4 because the spark plug does not fire, and the ECM may also store a misfire code.

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 shudder or hesitation, especially under acceleration
- Rough idle or shaking at stoplights
- Loss of power and reduced fuel economy
- Check Engine Light flashing or steady, sometimes accompanied by a misfire code
- Often no symptoms besides the warning light if the misfire is intermittent

Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Faulty ignition coil for cylinder 4
- 2 Open or damaged wiring in the ignition coil circuit (e.g., broken wire, corroded connector)
- 3 Poor electrical connection at the coil or ECM
- 4 Failed spark plug or spark plug boot (though usually sets a misfire code, not an open circuit code)
- 5 ECM internal fault (rare)

How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules for fault codes and record freeze-frame data to confirm the fault is current
- 2 Perform a visual inspection of the cylinder 4 ignition coil, connector, and wiring for damage or corrosion
- 3 Swap the cylinder 4 ignition coil with another cylinder and see if the fault moves; if it does, replace the coil
- 4 Check for continuity and resistance in the ignition coil circuit from the ECM to the coil, repairing any open or short
- 5 Inspect the spark plug and replace if worn or fouled, as a secondary check
- 6 If all else fails, test the ECM output signal with an oscilloscope or known-good ECM



Don't overlook the wiring harness

- A common cause is a chafed or broken wire in the harness near the cylinder 4 coil, often due to heat or vibration, which can be missed if only the coil is replaced.
- The code can set intermittently, so a wiggle test of the harness while monitoring live misfire data can reveal the open circuit.
- P1364 is often accompanied by a misfire code such as P0304, but the open circuit code points to an electrical fault rather than a fuel or compression issue.
- On some Volkswagen engines, the ignition coil harness connector can become loose or corroded, causing an open circuit that mimics a failed coil.
- Replacing the coil without checking the circuit can lead to a repeat failure if the underlying wiring fault remains.

Can I keep driving with P1364?

Driving with a misfire can damage the catalytic converter and cause poor performance, so it is best to avoid driving until the fault is repaired, especially if the Check Engine Light is flashing.

Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool
- Digital multimeter
- Test light
- Socket set and torx bits
- Oscilloscope (optional)

Reading P1364

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

Often seen with

P1363 Cylinder 3 Ignition Circuit Short To Ground · **P1365** Cylinder 4 Ignition Circuit Short To B+ · **P1365** Ignition Coil Secondary Circuit · **P1363** Ignition Coil Cylinder 3 No Activation · **P1365** Ignition Coil Cylinder 5 No Activation · **P1363** IC Cylinder 3 Not Toggling After Enable · **P1365** IC Cylinder 5 Not Toggling After Enable · **P1363** Ignition Coil D Secondary Circuit Malfunction · **P1365** Ignition Coil Secondary Circuit Failure · **P1363** IC Cylinder 3 Not Toggling After Enable · **P1365** IC Cylinder 5 Not Toggling After Enable · **P1363** Misfire Cylinder 11 With Fuel Cut-off · **P1365** Misfire Cylinder 12 With Fuel Cut-off · **P0304** Cylinder 4 Misfire Detected · **P0354** Ignition Coil D 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-p1364/>

