

VOLKSWAGEN · POWERTRAIN

**P1426**

OBD-II DIAGNOSTIC TROUBLE CODE (DTC)

## P1426 · Volkswagen

### Tank Ventilation Valve Open Circuit

P1426 on Volkswagen vehicles means the engine control module (ECM) has detected an open circuit in the electrical path to the tank ventilation valve, also called the EVAP purge valve. The ECM commands the valve to open and close during the evaporative emission self-test, but the circuit shows no continuity, so the valve cannot be actuated.

SYSTEM

Powertrain

CODE TYPE

Volkswagen  
specific

SEVERITY

Low

FIX DIFFICULTY

Intermediate

AREA

Auxiliary emission  
controls

### Symptoms you may notice

- Illuminated check engine light, often with no other noticeable symptoms
- A faint fuel vapor smell around the rear or engine bay after parking
- Slightly rough idle or hesitation when the ECM attempts to purge the canister
- Failed emissions inspection due to the stored fault
- In rare cases, a slight increase in fuel consumption if the valve sticks open

### Common causes, most likely first

- 1 Broken or corroded wiring between the ECM and the tank ventilation valve
- 2 Failed tank ventilation valve solenoid (open coil)
- 3 Loose or damaged electrical connector at the valve
- 4 Blown fuse or relay supplying power to the valve circuit
- 5 Corrosion or water intrusion in the connector or harness
- 6 Faulty ECM driver circuit (rare but possible)

### How to diagnose and fix it

- 1 Scan all modules and record freeze-frame data to confirm P1426 is active and not a ghost code
- 2 Inspect the tank ventilation valve connector and harness for looseness, corrosion, or chafing
- 3 Measure the resistance of the valve solenoid with a multimeter and compare to specification
- 4 Check for battery voltage at the valve connector with the key on and the engine off
- 5 Perform a continuity test on the signal wire from the valve to the ECM
- 6 Repair or replace damaged wiring, connectors, or the valve as needed
- 7 Clear the fault memory and run the EVAP self-test to verify the repair



## What a P1426 really tells you

- A P1426 is an electrical circuit fault, not a flow fault, so the valve may still click when bench-tested even though the ECM sees an open circuit.
- Volkswagen EVAP systems often use a pulse-width-modulated signal, so a simple test light can give misleading results; use a multimeter or oscilloscope.
- The tank ventilation valve is sometimes confused with the leak detection pump, but they are separate components with different fault codes.
- A poor ground connection at the valve mounting point can mimic an open circuit and is frequently overlooked during diagnosis.
- After repairing the circuit, the EVAP monitor may take several drive cycles to run and clear the code, so do not assume the fix failed if the light stays on briefly.

## Can I keep driving with P1426?

You can usually continue driving with a P1426 because the fault mainly affects evaporative emissions and does not compromise engine safety. Avoid topping off the fuel tank and schedule a diagnostic check soon to prevent a failed emissions test.

## Tools that help

- OBD-II scan tool with Volkswagen-specific software
- Digital multimeter
- Wire repair kit with crimpers and heat shrink
- Socket set and trim removal tools
- Oscilloscope (optional for signal analysis)

## Reading P1426

|           |                                                                           |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>P</b>  | Powertrain: engine, transmission and emissions.                           |
| <b>1</b>  | Manufacturer-specific code (Volkswagen): its meaning depends on the make. |
| <b>4</b>  | Auxiliary emission controls.                                              |
| <b>26</b> | The exact fault within that area.                                         |

## Often seen with

**P1425** Tank Ventilation Valve Short To Ground · **P1425** EVAP Purge Control Solenoid Circuit Low Voltage · **P0441** EVAP System Incorrect Purge Flow · **P0442** EVAP System Leak Detected (Small) · **P0455** EVAP System Leak Detected (Large) · **P2400** Evaporative Emission System Leak Detection Pump Control Circ



## 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-p1426/>

