

## Handling No Trouble Code Problems

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**Your car has a problem. So, naturally, the first thing you do is check for Diagnostic Trouble Codes to see what the problem is. But there are no codes. So now what do you do?**

You are driving to work one morning and the sun is shining, the birds are singing and the daily driver is purring along like a kitten. You stop at a traffic light and when you turns green you start to go, but when you hit the gas it bucks and stalls.

You then utter a few choice words from that special vocabulary you never use when Mom is in the room. You start it back up and nurse it along until you get to work and, of course, your boss just nods his head when you tell him you were late due to car trouble. On the way home it stalls only once and is otherwise running just fine.

So you know that Saturday is the day you will track this problem down and fix it. You access the computer to see what the codes are and you are stumped when there are no codes stored. So you scratch your head and wonder what to do now.

Intermittent problems like this can be very difficult to locate, and you usually have to wait until the problem becomes more consistent before there is a reasonable chance of locating it.

Symptom checks cannot be used properly unless the drivability problem characteristic actually happens while the vehicle is being tested. Otherwise everything will check out good and you won't find the problem.

Select the symptom that most accurately describes the vehicle's drivability problem and then perform the test routine that pertains to this symptom. Perform each routine test in sequence until problem is found. For definitions see Glossary Of Terms.

You should note that these are the most likely causes of a particular problem, but not necessarily the cause of the problem you are experiencing. Some of the possible causes listed may not even apply to your vehicle.

Remember that these are general instructions. For more detailed instructions, procedures and specifications pertaining to your specific vehicle, consult an appropriate repair manual.

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[rodrigo1979](#)

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- [Basics of Troubleshooting](#)
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- [Auto Repair Glossary](#)
- [Terms & Acronyms](#)

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### Elsewhere on the Web

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SYMPTOM	DIAGNOSTIC TEST
Hard Start	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u> <u>Check Engine Vacuum</u> <u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check ECT Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check TPS Calibration</u> <u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check IAT Sensor</u> <u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow Check Engine Mechanical Systems <u>Check EVAP Emission System</u> <u>Check EGR System</u>
Start And Stall	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u> <u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check ECT Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check TPS Calibration</u> <u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits
Hesitation Sag Stumble	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u> <u>Check Engine Vacuum</u> <u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check ECT Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check TPS Calibration</u> <u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check IAT Sensor</u> <u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow <u>Check EVAP Emission System</u> <u>Check EGR System</u> <u>Check For Oxygen Sensor Switching</u> <u>Check O2 Sensor Heater</u> <u>Check PNP Switch</u> Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits
Surge	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u> <u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check ECT Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check TPS Calibration</u> <u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow <u>Check EVAP Emission System</u> <u>Check For Oxygen Sensor Switching</u> Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits
Lack Of	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u>

<b>Power Sluggish</b>	<u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check ECT Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check TPS Calibration</u> <u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow <u>Check EGR System</u> <u>Check For Oxygen Sensor Switching</u> Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits
<b>Spark Knock Detonation</b>	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u> <u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check ECT Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check TPS Calibration</u> <u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow <u>Check EVAP Emission System</u> <u>Check For Oxygen Sensor Switching</u> Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits
<b>Cuts Out Misses</b>	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u> <u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow <u>Check EGR System</u> <u>Check For Oxygen Sensor Switching</u> Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits
<b>Backfire Popback</b>	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u> <u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow <u>Check EGR System</u> <u>Check For Oxygen Sensor Switching</u> Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits
<b>Runs Rough Unstable Erratic Idle Stalling</b>	<u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u> <u>Check Engine Vacuum</u> <u>Check Fuel Pressure</u> <u>Check ECT Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check TPS Calibration</u> <u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u> <u>Check IAT Sensor</u> <u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow <u>Check EVAP Emission System</u> <u>Check EGR System</u> <u>Check For Oxygen Sensor Switching</u> <u>Check O2 Sensor Heater</u> <u>Check PNP Switch</u> Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits

<b>Poor Fuel Economy</b>	<b><u>Check Secondary Ignition System</u></b> <b><u>Check Engine Vacuum</u></b> <b><u>Check Fuel Pressure</u></b> <b><u>Check ECT Sensor Calibration</u></b> <b><u>Check TPS Calibration</u></b> <b><u>Check MAP Sensor Calibration</u></b> <b><u>Check IAT Sensor</u></b> <b><u>Check IAC Motor Operation</u></b> Check The Minimum Idle Air Flow <b><u>Check EVAP Emission System</u></b> <b><u>Check EGR System</u></b> <b><u>Check For Oxygen Sensor Switching</u></b> <b><u>Check O2 Sensor Heater</u></b> <b><u>Check PNP Switch</u></b> Check PCM Power And Ground Circuits
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