



Check Engine Light Comes On After Fuel System Service

COMPLAINT: The Check Engine light (Malfunction Indicator Lamp, or MIL) comes on during or immediately after a fuel and induction system service. This may affect engine performance.

CAUSE: Multiple possibilities, including:

- loose fuel cap
- overly rich engine signal
- disconnected sensor

CORRECTION: Repair the condition; often this will simply be a matter of tightening the fuel cap or running the car until all of the cleaning solution has burned out of the intake manifold.

Then clear the codes using an appropriate scan tool (available from your Run-Rite dealer).

Cars built from 1996-on are equipped with a control system called Onboard Diagnostics II, or OBD-II. This system monitors the engine operation for proper performance, to keep fuel efficiency high and emissions low.

This system tests for such issues as whether the gas cap is sealed properly or the fuel delivery is correct. Leave the gas cap loose and the system may set a code and light the Check Engine light.

Or set the intake cleaner valve too high, and the computer may consider the mixture too rich, setting a code and lighting the light.

Either way, you'll need to correct the problem and clear the codes. Very often, correcting the problem is simple. In fact, it may be gone already, now that you've finished the service.

Clearing the codes is a little more involved, because on today's cars, you can't simply disconnect the battery to clear them. You'll need a scan tool equipped to service the vehicle you're working on.

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That scan tool will let you check the codes, verify system operation, and clear the codes.

Don't have an OBD-II scan tool? You can purchase one from your regular Run-Rite distributor.

And to avoid customer complaints, let them know ahead of time that they might see the Check Engine light come on after the service. If they do, just have them bring it back so you can check the system and clear the codes. That'll help you skirt any customer dissatisfaction issues, and keep the customer happy and coming back again and again.