

WHAT DO THE LIGHTS ON THE DASHBOARD MEAN?



Airbag Warning

It is normal for this light to turn on when you first start the engine. If it stays lit, however, there could be an issue.



Automatic Shift Lock or Engine Start Indicator

Reminder to step on the brake to start the engine or to shift out of neutral into reverse or drive.



Check Engine

It comes on when there is anything amiss with your car's motor and emissions system. Check the gas cap. If that's not the cause, then schedule an appointment.



Battery

Warning that something could be wrong with your car's electrical system. Get to a mechanic soon to resolve this issue.



Brake System

- Failing to release the parking brake
- Low brake fluid
- Worn brake pads
- Trouble with anti-lock brakes



Anti-Lock Brakes

Can indicate a problem with the wheel speed sensor or other connections or wiring.



Coolant Temperature

This means the temperature of your coolant is too high. A high coolant temperature can cause your car to overheat and break down.



Distance Warning

You're coming too close to the car or something -- or someone -- in front of you.



Door Open

One or more of your doors is not fully closed. This may include your trunk or rear hatch.



Frost Warning

Temperatures outside are below freezing, ice could form on the roads, and you should use caution.



Lamp Out

A bulb in your headlights or tail lights is out. Replace it as soon as possible.



Low Fuel

Your fuel level is low. Get to a gas station as soon as possible so that you don't run out of gas.



Oil Pressure Warning

Could be telling you that you need more oil, but it also could indicate:

- Leak in the engine
- Blown piston ring
- Broken oil pump



Traction and Stability Control

When the roads are slippery, this light may blink. If it stays on, it means there's a problem with your system and you should have it checked.



Transmission Temperature

The temperature is too high inside your gearbox. Heavy towing can cause this issue. Otherwise, your transmission fluid level is low or your transmission has worn out.



Tire Pressure

Indicates underinflated or overinflated tires. Check your tire pressure or you won't have enough traction and you may damage your tires.



Washer Fluid

If your washer fluid is low, you'll see this light. While you don't have to rush to get new fluid, it's still a good idea to get some as soon as possible.

Diagnostic Tools

You can buy a tool that helps you diagnose the specific problem that's causing your dashboard lights to illuminate. Make sure that you know where to plug it in and how to read it.

