

CHRYSLER P1281: ENGINE IS COLD TOO LONG

OVERVIEW

Severity	:	<div><div>High</div></div>
DIY Difficulty Level	:	<div><div>Intermediate</div></div>
Repair Cost	:	\$80-\$310
Can I Still Drive?	:	No

What Does The Chrysler P1281 Code Mean?

Engine started, engine runtime more than 20 minutes, and the PCM detected the engine temperature did not exceed 176°F in the period.

What Are The Potential Causes Of The Chrysler P1281 Code?

- Check the operation of the thermostat (it may be stuck open)
- ECT Sensor signal circuit has high resistance
- ECT Sensor is damaged or it has failed
- Inspect for low coolant level or an incorrect coolant mixture

Reference Sources

[Chrysler P1281](#), DTCDECODE.