

# Dodge P1281: Engine Is Cold Too Long

## OVERVIEW

Severity

:

High

DIY Difficulty Level

:

Intermediate

Repair Cost

:

\$80-\$310

Can I Still Drive?

:

No

## What Does The Dodge 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 Dodge 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

[Dodge P1281](#), DTCDECODE.