

P0172: SYSTEM TOO RICH (BANK 1)

OVERVIEW

Severity	:	<div><div>Medium</div></div>
DIY Difficulty Level	:	<div><div>Intermediate</div></div>
Repair Cost	:	\$50-\$300
Can I Still Drive?	:	Yes (Short-term only)

What Does The P0172 Code Mean?

Basically this means that an oxygen sensor in bank 1 detected a rich condition (too little oxygen in the exhaust). On V6/V8/V10 engines, Bank 1 is the side of the engine that has cylinder #1.

Note: This DTC is very similar to [P0175](#), and in fact your vehicle may show both codes at the same time.

What Are The Symptoms Of The P0172 Code?

You will more than likely not notice any drivability problems, although there may be symptoms such as a misfire.

What Are The Potential Causes Of The P0172 Code?

A code P0172 may mean that one or more of the following has happened:

- The MAF (Mass Air Flow) Sensor is dirty or faulty. Note: The use of "oiled" air filters can cause the MAF to become dirty if the filter is over-oiled. There is also an issue with some vehicles where the MAF sensors leak the silicone potting material used to protect the circuitry.
- There could be a vacuum leak.
- There could be a fuel pressure or delivery problem

How Can You Fix The P0172 Code?

Possible solutions include:

- Inspect all vacuum and PCV hoses, replace if necessary
- Clean the MAF sensor. Consult your service manual for it's location if you need help. I find it's best to take it off and spray it with electronics cleaner or brake cleaner. Make sure you are careful not to damage the MAF sensor, and make sure it's dry before reinstalling
- Inspect fuel lines for cracks, leaks, or pinches
- Check the fuel pressure at the fuel rail
- Check the fuel injectors, they may be dirty. Use fuel injector cleaner or get them professionally cleaned/replaced.
- Check for an exhaust leak before the first oxygen sensor (this is unlikely to cause the problem, but it is possible)

Reference Sources

[Diagnostic Trouble Code \(DTC\) Charts and Descriptions for P0172](#) - Pages 42-43.