

If Your Engine Overheats

The pointer of your car's temperature gauge should stay in the midrange under most conditions. It may go slightly higher if you are driving up a long steep hill on a very hot day. If it climbs to the red mark, you should stop and determine the reason.

NOTICE

Driving with the temperature gauge pointer at the red mark can cause serious damage to your engine.

Your car can overheat for several reasons, such as lack of coolant or a mechanical problem. The only indication may be the temperature gauge climbing to or above the red mark. Or you may see steam or spray coming from under the car or engine cover. In either case, you should take immediate action.

WARNING

Steam and spray from an overheated engine can seriously scald you.

Do not open the hood or engine compartment if steam is coming out.

1. Safely pull to the side of the road. Put the transmission in neutral or Park and set the parking brake. Turn off the climate control and all other accessories. Turn on the hazard indicators.
2. If you see steam and/or spray coming from under the car or engine cover, turn off the engine.
3. If you do not see steam or spray, leave the engine running and watch the temperature gauge. If the high heat is due to overloading (climbing a long, steep hill on a hot day with the A/C running, for example), the engine should start to cool down almost immediately. If it does, wait until the temperature gauge comes down to the white mark then continue driving.

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4. If the temperature gauge stays at the red mark, turn off the engine.
5. Wait until any signs of steam or spray go away, then open the front hood and engine cover.
6. Look for any obvious coolant leaks, such as a split radiator hose.
Everything is still extremely hot, so use caution. If you find a leak, it must be repaired before you continue driving. See **Towing** on page 209.

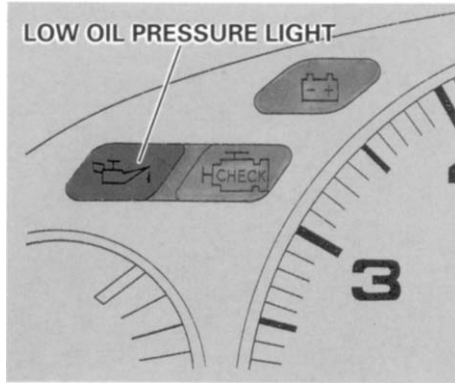
WARNING

Removing the expansion tank cap while the engine is hot can cause the coolant to spray out, seriously scalding you.

Always let the engine and radiator cool down before removing the expansion tank cap.

7. If you don't find an obvious leak, check the coolant level in the expansion tank (see page 131).
8. If the expansion tank needs coolant, you will have to remove the cap. Before doing that, turn the ignition switch ON and check the temperature gauge. Remove the expansion tank cap **ONLY** if the temperature gauge pointer has come down to normal or below and you do not hear any bubbling or gurgling noises coming from the cooling system.
9. Use a cloth or glove to protect your hand while removing the expansion tank cap. Without pressing it downward, turn the cap one-quarter turn counterclockwise. Stop and wait for any pressure in the expansion tank to escape. Then press down on the cap and turn it counterclockwise to remove it.
10. Start the engine and set the climate control to FULL AUTO at 90°. Add coolant up to the MAX line on the expansion tank. If you do not have the proper coolant mixture available, you can add plain water. Remember to have the cooling system drained and refilled with the proper mixture as soon as you can.
11. Run the engine and watch the temperature gauge. If it goes back to the red mark, the engine needs repair. (See **TOWING** on page 209).
12. If the temperature stays normal, check the coolant level in the expansion tank. If it has gone down, add coolant to the MAX mark. Put the expansion tank cap back on tightly.

Low Oil Pressure



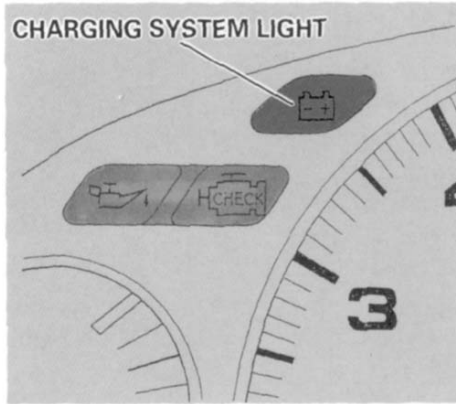
The oil pressure warning light should never come on when the engine is running. If this warning light comes on with the engine running, take immediate action.

NOTICE

Running the engine with low oil pressure can cause serious mechanical damage almost immediately. Turn off the engine as soon as you can safely get the car stopped.

1. Safely pull off the road and shut off the engine.
2. Let the car sit for a minute. Open the engine compartment and check the oil level (see page [101](#)). Although oil level and oil pressure are not directly connected, an engine that is very low on oil can lose pressure during cornering and other driving maneuvers.
3. If necessary, add oil to bring the level back to the full mark on the dipstick, (see page [133](#))
4. Start the engine and watch the oil pressure light. If the light does not go out within ten seconds, turn off the engine. There is a mechanical problem that needs to be repaired before you can continue driving. (See **Towing** on page [209](#).)

Charging System Indication

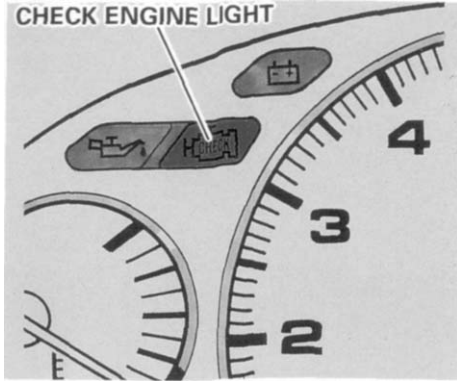


The charging system light should go out after the engine starts. If it comes on brightly with the engine running, the alternator is no longer charging the battery.

Immediately turn off all electrical accessories: radio, climate control, rear defogger, cruise control, etc. Try not to use other electrically-operated controls such as the power windows. Keep the engine running and take extra care to not stall it. The starter motor uses lots of current and will discharge the battery rapidly. Check the voltmeter as you drive. If there is a problem in the charging system, the voltage will gradually drop.

By eliminating as much of the electrical load as possible, you can drive several miles before the battery is too discharged to run the engine. Drive to a service station or garage where you can get technical assistance.

Check Engine light



If the Check Engine light comes on while driving, there is a problem with your engine or its emission control systems. Even though you may feel no difference in your car's performance, it can reduce your fuel economy and cause your car to put out excessive emissions.

Continued operation may cause serious engine damage.

If this light comes on, safely pull off the road and turn off the engine. Restart the engine and watch the check engine light. If it stays on, have your car checked by the dealer as soon as possible. You should also have the dealer inspect your car if the light comes on frequently, even though it goes off when you do the above procedure.

NOTICE

If you keep driving with the check engine light on, you can damage your car's emission controls and engine. Those repairs are not covered by your car's warranties.