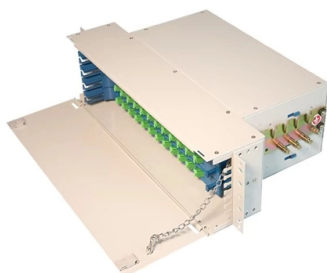


The taillight is on intermittently



Overview

Tail Lights Stay On When Car Is Off (How to Fix) Tail lights staying on when the car is turned off can be an annoying issue that can drain your Tail Lights.

Key Takeaways

An intermittently turning-on taillight is usually caused by a faulty switch, relay, or wiring issue, often related to the brake light or taillight circuit. Common Causes

1. Faulty Brake Light or Taillight Switch The brake light switch, located near the brake pedal, completes the circuit when the pedal is pressed. If the switch sticks or has internal damage, it can cause the taillight to illuminate intermittently, even when the pedal is not pressed or the ignition is off . 2. Stuck or Worn Brake Pedal A brake pedal that does not return fully due to a stuck spring or mechanical wear can keep the switch engaged, causing intermittent lighting . 3. Malfunctioning Relay Taillight circuits often use relays to control power. If the relay contacts are welded or damaged, the circuit may intermittently stay closed, sending power to the taillight unexpectedly . 4. Wiring Issues or Short Circuits Frayed wires, loose connections, or corrosion in the wiring harness or light sockets can create unintended electrical paths, causing the taillight to flicker or turn on sporadically .

Troubleshooting Steps

- Inspect the Brake Pedal and Switch: Check if the pedal returns fully and if the switch is physically damaged or stuck. Lubricate or replace components as needed.
- Test the Taillight Switch: Use a multimeter to verify that the switch properly opens and closes the circuit. Replace if it fails to cut off power.

- **Check the Relay:** Locate the taillight relay in the fuse box and test for proper operation. Replace if the contacts are stuck or damaged.
- **Examine Wiring and Connectors:** Look for frayed wires, corrosion, or loose connections in the taillight circuit. Repair or replace damaged sections.
- **Replace Bulbs if Necessary:** Although less common, a faulty bulb socket can sometimes cause intermittent lighting.

Safety Considerations

Intermittent taillights can drain the battery and pose a safety hazard by confusing other drivers. Prompt diagnosis and repair are recommended to prevent further electrical issues and ensure road safety . By systematically checking the switch, pedal, relay, and wiring, most intermittent taillight problems can be identified and resolved without extensive professional intervention.

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A faulty ground connection — the wire that completes the circuit back to the car's metal chassis — produces flickering lights, dim

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