

## *What the heck does that “Check Engine” light mean?*

“The radiator is full of water, the oil is full, the engine seems to run fine, what else am I supposed to check?” We hear this all the time.

There is no need to panic. You do not have to pull over and stop. Sooner than later you should have the problem checked, but not right this second. On 1996 and newer cars and trucks there are as many as 500 different reasons the light can come on.....that’s right **500**. Most of the time, you may not *FEEL* the engine run differently, but it could still drastically affect your fuel economy or emissions.

One common problem that can set the “Check Engine” light has been the gas cap. If there is even a tiny air leak in the fuel system, the light can come on. That means if the gas cap is not tight, the light could come on. A lot of the time, people do not relate the light to just getting gas because the light will not come on right away. It could take up to two or three days, or even longer after you’ve gotten gas. You could have possibly left the gas cap loose or by mistake, forget to put it on at all.

It is impossible to even guess what caused the light to come on. Therefore, there is no way to give an accurate estimate for testing without knowing what fault code is set in the computer. Because of this dilemma, we will scan any 1996 car or truck computer system at no charge. This will tell us, and you, what fault code set that is causing the light to come on. We then know what SECTION of the engine to test to pinpoint the problem. Sometimes the cure is very simple, other times, very complicated.

It is important to understand that the main function of this “Check Engine” light is to monitor your emissions system. Anything that could cause an emissions problem *WILL* cause the light to come on. If the light is on, it WILL cause your vehicle to fail it’s emissions/smog test.

Bottom line.....**DO NOT PANIC**..... but get it checked out as soon as possible.

## **Don’t forget about Maintenance Service**

**There is more to Maintenance than just having your oil Changed!**

- **Coolant/Antifreeze Replacement and Flush.**
- **Transmission Fluid Replacement & Flush.**
- **Drive Belt Replacement.**
- **Fuel, Air & Cabin Filter Replacement.**
- **Timing Belt Replacement.**
- **Thorough Inspections of Brakes, Coolant Hoses, worn Suspension Parts, C.V. Boots, Tire wear and MUCH more.**

