2009-2016 Audi A4 - Check Engine Light / OBD2

2009-2016 Audi A4 | Easy | 30-60 minutes | $25 DIY

TOOLS

Generic OBD2 code scanner (any basic reader works for standard engine codes) Phone or notepad (to record every code before clearing) Flashlight (to find the port under the dash) Basic hand tools (only if you proceed to a simple fix like a coil pack or gas cap)

PARTS

OBD2 scanner $25.00

STEPS

1. **Read the light's behavior before you touch anything - Also stop immediately for** overheating, a red oil-pressure warning, heavy shaking, or a strong fuel smell - those are park-it-now symptoms regardless of what the light is doing.
2. **Find the OBD2 port under the driver-side dash - On the B8 A4, the 16-pin OBD2 diagnostic** port sits under the dashboard on the driver's side, to the left of the steering column, tucked behind a small removable trim cover. You don't need to remove any large panels - feel for the small a...
3. **Plug in a generic scanner and pull the codes with the key on - Plug your generic OBD2** scanner into the port - any basic code reader works on the B8; you don't need Audi-specific software for standard engine codes.
4. **Note every code, but only interpret the generic families - Write down every code before** clearing anything - clearing first erases the evidence you need. For a first diagnosis, stick to the generic code families: the P0300-series means misfire (P0300 is random/multiple cylinders, P0301-P0304 po...
5. **Check the easy B8-specific culprits that match your codes - The 2009-2016 A4's 2.0T has a** few repeat offenders. Start with the free checks: a loose or damaged gas cap is a classic cause of evaporative-system codes - tighten it until it clicks and see if the light clears after a few drive cycles...
6. **Decide whether it's safe to keep driving - A steady light with the engine running** normally - no shaking, no overheating, no new noises, oil level fine - is generally safe for careful driving to a parts store or shop, but get it diagnosed soon rather than ignoring it for weeks....
7. **Fix the simple cause, clear the codes, and road-test - Address the likely cause you've** found - tighten or replace the gas cap, swap a failed coil pack, or replace a whistling PCV valve - and only then clear the codes with the scanner.

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