2009-2011 Audi A6 - Check Engine Light / OBD2

2009-2011 Audi A6 | Easy | 30-45 minutes | $25 DIY

TOOLS

Generic OBD2 scanner (handheld or Bluetooth + phone app) Flashlight or headlamp Notebook and pen Basic socket set (if removing engine cover for visual checks)

PARTS

OBD2 scanner $25.00

STEPS

1. **Classify the light: steady, flashing, or plus-company - Steady = stored fault; drive** gently. Flashing misfire = shut off and tow - the 3.0T's close-coupled cats overheat fast. Red oil or coolant warnings with the CEL = stop now. CEL + EPC = reduced power; limp it in and scan the same day.
2. **Find the port under the driver-side dash - The 16-pin OBD2 port is under the driver-side** dash, just left of the steering column. Kneel at the open door and look up - the plug faces downward. Usually exposed; on some cars the knee bolster hides it, so feel along the lower dash edg...
3. **Scan with any generic OBD2 reader - Plug the scanner in with the ignition OFF until it** clicks, then ignition ON, engine off, and "Read Codes." The C6's CAN-bus gives a basic reader every generic code. Record each code exactly with status and freeze-frame - coolant te...
4. **Map the codes to the 3.0T's weak spots - 3.0T patterns: P0300-series misfires - coil** packs first, then plugs, then carbon buildup on intake valves. P0171/P0174 lean - breather/PCV assembly and vacuum hoses crack; listen for hissing at idle. P0420 - check manifold exhaust le...
5. **Do the no-cost checks before spending money - Coil swap: move the coil to another** cylinder, clear the code, drive - misfire follows the coil, coil's bad. Vacuum listen: hiss at idle around valve covers/intake means split breather hoses. Gas cap: reseat it, drive a few cycles - l...
6. **Clear, drive, and verify - in that order - Erase codes only after the repair - clearing** wipes freeze-frame evidence. Ignition on, engine off, then drive 20-30 minutes so the monitors run. Same code returns? Stop and re-diagnose - don't turn a $60 coil into a $600 guessing s...
7. **Recognize the jobs that need a lift and a pro - See a specialist if misfires persist** after coil testing (carbon cleaning needs walnut blasting), coolant drops with no visible leak, P0420 returns on a leak-free exhaust, or the transmission shifts oddly with the CEL on. Flashing CEL = tow...

TORQUE

ezcarfix.com