2005-2010 Chevrolet Cobalt - Check Engine Light /

2005-2010 Chevrolet Cobalt | Easy | 15-30 minutes | $25 DIY

TOOLS

OBD-II scanner compatible with the vehicle Flashlight Notebook or phone for codes and freeze-frame data Safety glasses

PARTS

OBD2 scanner $25.00

STEPS

1. **Confirm warning severity - Start the Cobalt and note whether the check-engine light is** steady or flashing. Flashing signals a severe misfire that can overheat the catalytic converter, so pull over and shut the engine off. A steady light is usually a diagnosable emis...
2. **Connect the OBD-II scanner - Turn the ignition off and find the 16-pin OBD-II connector** under the Cobalt's driver-side dashboard, just left of the steering column. Seat the scanner plug fully, switch the ignition to ON with the engine off, and confirm it communicates...
3. **Read and record codes - Record every confirmed, pending, and permanent code plus** freeze-frame data before changing anything. Typical Cobalt patterns: P0300-P0304 misfires, P0420 catalyst, P0446 and P0455 EVAP, P0128 stuck-open thermostat, P0171 lean, P0101 MAF. F...
4. **Check the likely cause - For P0128, watch the coolant-temperature PID while driving: it** should reach roughly 195-220F and hold; plateauing below means the thermostat is stuck open. For P0171, hunt for vacuum leaks in the intake and PCV plumbing. For misfires, insp...
5. **Repair, clear, and verify - After the repair, clear the codes and run a GM drive cycle:** cold start, brief idle, steady 55 mph cruising, and gentle deceleration, with the tank one-quarter to three-quarters full and an overnight cold soak for the EVAP monitor. Rescan a...

TORQUE

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