

What Those Dashboard Lights Really Mean

Christian Brothers Automotive's Guide: How to Read and Respond to Your Vehicle's Warning Lights

Have you ever wondered what a light near your car's gauges means? You're not alone. Your car's computer manages many complex functions, and understanding these lights can be crucial. Tim Porter, from Christian Brothers Automotive in Independence, offers a guide to help you decode these indicators and decide on the appropriate actions.

1. Check Engine Light: This indicates that the engine's onboard computer has detected a malfunction, which could range from minor to major. Without further investigation, it's hard to assess the severity.

2. Battery Light: This light signals a problem within the entire charging system, not just the battery. It usually means you're at risk of being stranded soon, so it's best to find a safe place to pull over and park as soon as possible.

3. Coolant Temperature: This light indicates that the engine is running hotter than recommended. If you continue driving it could cause further damage, so check to see why the engine is overheating as soon as possible.

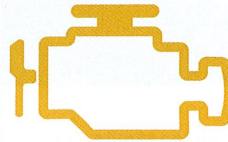
4. Oil Pressure Warning: This light suggests low or stopped oil flow. Turn off the engine immediately, as it could be due to a faulty sensor/switch or a serious engine issue.

5. Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS): This light indicates a tire is over- or under-inflated, or that the system has lost signal from one or more tires, especially if you've changed tires without updating the settings. A flashing light suggests a lost signal.

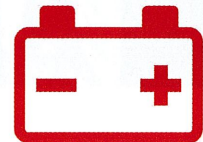
6. ABS-Traction Control-Stability Control: A solid light indicates a malfunction in the wheel speed or brake system. A flashing light means low traction on the road, so proceed with caution to maintain control.

Always use your best judgment to ensure your safety when pulling over, and let these tips assist you in making informed decisions to maintain and get the most out of your vehicle.

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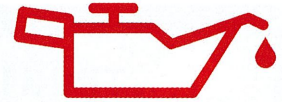
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Tim Porter grew up in the automotive industry and was influenced by his father's role as a Phillips 66 Service Station Manager. Tim began his career at Auto Parts in 1997. Tim joined the Christian Brothers Automotive organization and has been serving the metro area since 2013.