

# Electrical Diagnosis

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Sometimes, the electronics of cars can seem overwhelming. Everything is wonderful so long as all is working correctly, **but when something goes wrong, it can be hard to tell where the problem is and to know how serious it is.** But it's not that difficult to learn a bit about how things work so you can feel like you have control of the situation, rather than feeling like malfunctioning electronics are controlling you. The professionals at [Ace Auto Repair](#) love to give our clients a clear understanding of what's not working, and what we'll be doing to fix it.



## Diagnosing Electrical Issues

While the computers that control the electronics of most cars can make things feel complicated for car owners, those very same computers have made it more efficient than ever for mechanics to diagnose and treat malfunctioning electronics. **These computers allow us to diagnose even the most complex electrical problems by using our certified diagnostic equipment to access a code that lets us know exactly what the problem is,** meaning we can diagnose and begin repairs immediately.

There are wide variety of problems that a car might face in its electrical system. **New cars aren't immune to malfunctioning electronics either, which can be maddening for new car owners.** Below we've outlined some of the most common electrical problems a car might face, which will help you to figure out when the problem is electrical and when it's time to call us for help.

## Common Electrical Problems in Cars

From batteries to alternators, **there are a wide variety of problems that a car's electronics can have.** Here are a few of the most common.

- **Dead Battery:** Batteries turn the engine to get things started. If the car won't start, the first thing to check is the headlights. If they won't turn on, your battery may be out of juice. This common problem is also one of the simplest to fix, with jumper cables and another car's battery. When you go to turn on the car and hear a click, but nothing happens, it could mean that it's time to replace the battery. The one you have is not able to store enough energy to turn the engine and get the car started.
- **Cables:** Before buying a whole new battery, always check the battery cables. Try the tried and true method of pushing them gently and making sure they're connected. Then try to start the car again. If it works, it's likely time to have the cables replaced.
- **Alternator:** The alternator is what recharges your battery. If there's a problem there, there's also going to be a problem with the battery's power storage.
- **Alternator Belt:** If there's too much or too little tension, or if there are cracks, then the alternator belt could be the source of your problems.
- **Electrical Fuses:** Just as when you have an electrical problem in your house, one of the first places you should check is your fuse box. When checking fuses, always make sure that all wires are fully connected, as that could be the problem.

- **Ignition System:** A broken ignition switch means your care won't start at all, so you'll want to give us a call right away.

## Let Ace Auto Utah Help Get You Back on the Road

Whether you know what the problem is, or still need help figuring out just what it is, we're here to help. Give us a call at 801-803-6016, or [schedule an appointment online](#). We'll happily let you know whether you need to bring the car in, and provide an estimate for repairs. We're located in West Jordan, serving all of Salt Lake County. As full service automotive mechanics, in addition to solving any electrical problems your car may have, we're also here to help with everything car related, from [changing the oil](#), [fixing the transmission](#), and [engine repairs](#) and [replacements](#).