I'm not a robot

If your car auto start stop not working, it could be due to a weak battery, faulty sensors, temperature issues, HVAC demands, or outdated software requiring inspection and maintenance. In recent years, car manufacturers have integrated innovative features to improve vehicle efficiency and environmental impact. One such feature is the auto start-stop system, designed to save fuel and reduce emissions by automatically shutting off the engine when the car comes to a complete stop, like at a traffic light, and restarting it when the accelerator is pressed. While convenient and eco-friendly, this system can sometimes stop functioning properly, leaving drivers scratching their heads. Experiencing auto-start-stop issues? Don’t stay stuck; reach out to Crossroads helpline for expert assistance! This guide explores the common causes and fixes for car auto start-stop not working. Whether it’s a battery issue, faulty sensors, or other mechanical or software problems, understanding the root cause can help you resolve it efficiently. Let’s dive into the key reasons and solutions to keep your vehicle running smoothly. What is an Auto Start-Stop System? The auto start-stop system is an advanced automotive feature aimed at conserving fuel and minimizing emissions. When engaged, it turns off the engine when the car is stationary, restarting it instantly when movement resumes. Benefits of the Auto Start-Stop System Fuel efficiency: Saves fuel during idle periods. Lower emissions: Reduces environmental impact. Convenience: Designed for seamless operation without driver intervention. Despite these benefits, certain conditions can render the system non-operational. Below, we explore the common reasons behind car auto start stop not working and provide actionable fixes. Common Reasons for Car Auto Start Stop Not Working 1. Weak or Defective Battery A weak battery is one of the most frequent culprits behind the malfunction of the auto start-stop system. This feature requires a strong and reliable battery to power the engine restart seamlessly. Signs of a Weak Battery: Engine struggles to restart after stopping. Dim headlights or interior lights. Low voltage readings (below 12.6 volts). How to Fix It: Check battery health using a multimeter. Replace if the voltage is significantly below 12.6 volts. Clean battery terminals to ensure proper connectivity. Invest in a high-performance battery designed for vehicles with auto start-stop systems. Regular battery maintenance can prevent most issues related to this critical component. 2. Faulty Sensors Modern vehicles rely on numerous sensors to ensure optimal performance, and the auto start-stop system is no exception. Sensors monitoring speed, brake position, and engine temperature work in unison to determine when the system should engage. Symptoms of Faulty Sensors: Inconsistent system performance. Error codes or warning lights on the dashboard. Delayed engine restarts. Solutions: Perform a diagnostic scan to identify sensor-related error codes. Replace faulty sensors, such as the brake pedal position sensor or the temperature sensor. Ensure all sensors are calibrated correctly. 3. Engine Temperature Conditions The engine temperature plays a significant role in the functionality of the auto start-stop system. If the engine is too cold or overheated, the system may deactivate to avoid damage. Possible Causes: Low coolant levels. Malfunctioning thermostat. Clogged radiator or cooling system issues. Fixes: Check and replenish coolant levels. Inspect the radiator for clogs or leaks. Schedule regular cooling system maintenance, including flushes and inspections. 4. HVAC System Demands The auto start-stop system prioritizes passenger comfort. When the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is under heavy demand, it may override the start-stop feature to prevent cabin discomfort. Common Indicators: The system works intermittently during extreme weather conditions. Increased engine idle time with AC or heater on. Solutions: Set the cabin temperature to a moderate level to reduce HVAC strain. Inspect for refrigerant leaks or HVAC system malfunctions. Replace the cabin air filter for better airflow. 5. Software Glitches or Outdated Firmware In some cases, software glitches can interfere with the auto start-stop system’s functionality. Vehicle manufacturers periodically release updates to address these issues. How to Identify: Unexplained system malfunctions. Recent software update notifications. Fixes: Contact the dealership for a software update. Ensure updates are installed by qualified technicians. Check for recalls or technical service bulletins related to the auto start-stop system. Quick Troubleshooting Tips If you’re experiencing car auto start stop not working, here are some quick steps to diagnose the issue: Check battery voltage and connections. Inspect error messages on the dashboard. Monitor engine temperature and coolant levels. Adjust HVAC settings to reduce system strain. Schedule a professional diagnostic test. Comparison Table: Common Causes & Solutions Issue Cause Solution Weak Battery Low voltage or defective battery Test voltage, clean terminals, replace battery Faulty Sensors Malfunctioning sensors Diagnostic scan, replace faulty sensors Temperature Conditions Cold or overheated engine Maintain coolant, repair cooling system HVAC System Demands High AC or heater use Moderate settings, inspect HVAC system Software Glitches Outdated firmware Install software updates FAQs About Car Auto Start Stop Not Working 1. Why does my auto start-stop system deactivate in cold weather? The system may deactivate to prevent wear and tear on the engine, which requires a warm temperature to function optimally. 2. Can a low battery cause the auto start-stop system to stop working? Yes, a weak or defective battery is a common reason for this issue. Regular battery checks and maintenance are essential. 3. How do I know if my car’s sensors are faulty? Warning lights, error codes, or inconsistent system performance often indicate sensor issues. A professional diagnostic test can confirm the problem. 4. Will using the air conditioning always disable the auto start-stop feature? Not always, but excessive use of the HVAC system can override the feature temporarily to maintain passenger comfort. 5. Do I need professional help to update my vehicle’s software? Yes, it’s recommended to have a qualified technician install software updates to ensure compatibility and correct installation. 6. Is the auto start-stop feature bad for my engine? When functioning properly, the system is designed to minimize wear and tear. However, issues like frequent malfunctions should be addressed promptly. 7. Can I manually disable the auto start-stop system? Yes, most vehicles allow you to deactivate the feature via a button or menu setting. Refer to your vehicle’s manual for instructions. 8. How often should I maintain my vehicle’s cooling system? Regular maintenance, including coolant flushes and radiator checks, is recommended every 2-3 years or as advised by the manufacturer. Conclusion The auto start-stop system is a valuable feature for enhancing fuel efficiency and reducing emissions, but it can face challenges due to battery issues, faulty sensors, temperature conditions, HVAC demands, or software glitches. By understanding the common causes and fixes outlined above, you can keep this feature operating smoothly. Routine maintenance and timely repairs can save you from unnecessary headaches. If troubleshooting doesn’t resolve the problem, don’t hesitate to seek professional assistance. Remember, keeping your car in top shape ensures that advanced features like the auto start-stop system work as intended. For expert support, reach out to professionals or trusted helplines to address your concerns effectively. Need a quick fix for your auto-start-stop woes? Crossroads helpline is just a call away! A start-stop feature that fails to activate at the traffic light or when the car is idle can be annoying. After all, this innovation is designed to boost fuel efficiency and cut emissions — but only if it works! If you’re asking yourself, “Why is my auto start-stop not working?”, you’re not alone!Sometimes, an open driver door or a faulty accelerator pedal sensor can stop this feature from engaging. Still facing this issue?Let’s dive into other potential reasons your start-stop system might deactivate and explore the steps to restart it. The auto start-stop feature usually doesn’t activate if the seat belt is unfastened and the driver door is open. However, certain malfunctioning components can also prevent the feature from engaging. Here are some prominent causes that may be stopping your system from doing its job: Cars with auto start-stop systems usually have a powerful Absorbent Glass Mat (AGM) or Enhanced Flooded Battery (EFB) unit. These batteries must have at least 70% charge to activate the start-stop feature. So, if your EFB or AGM battery has a low charge, the feature won’t work. A battery may lose its charge if it’s too old, has corroded terminals, or loose cables. It may also die prematurely if a faulty alternator fails to charge it. Modern vehicles use several sensors, including clutch pedal, vehicle speed, and accelerator pedal sensors, to engage the start-stop system. If any of these sensors have a wiring issue, the system won’t engage. You’ll also notice that your car’s fuel economy will slowly drop. The auto start-stop system works best when the engine is at its normal operating temperature — usually around 190° to 225°F. If the engine temperature is low because of cold weather or too high because of car overheating, the feature won’t engage. This prevents further damage to the internal components. The start-stop function normally turns off your engine at a traffic light to reduce fuel consumption. But, during hot or cold weather, it doesn’t engage to ensure your HVAC system can function continuously. Here’s why:If you want to sit on comfy heated seats in cold weather, the engine has to run consistently to warm them. In this situation, the start-stop feature doesn’t activate even if the car is at the stop light. Similarly, the feature will remain disengaged when the air conditioning system is at its highest setting during summer to ensure the cabin stays cool. The power control module uses the brake pedal sensor, transmission system, and other components to engage the auto start-stop feature. However, if the module is outdated or has software glitches, it won’t engage the system as it should. Frequently driving in stop-and-go traffic can eventually cause the start-stop system to malfunction. The constant stopping and restarting of the engine can put additional strain on your EFB or AGM battery, causing it to drain quickly. As the car battery drains, your start-stop system may cease to function altogether. If you drive on a steep road, your car’s auto start-stop feature will disable automatically and activate Hill Start Assist (HSA). This system ensures a smooth uphill drive by preventing rollback when you transition from braking to accelerating. Without HSA, a start-stop system can pose significant risks. When the engine restarts after a brief stop, the car might not have enough power to move forward, potentially rolling backward instead. This dangerous situation could lead to collisions with vehicles behind you. To prioritize safety and give you 100% control, the start-stop feature is disabled as soon as the HSA system’s inclination sensors detect you’re driving at a steep angle. NOTE: HSA is primarily available in mid-range and high-end car models, so if your vehicle doesn’t have it, it’s best to switch off the start-stop feature. When parking or reversing the car, you turn the steering wheel at a particular angle to guide the vehicle. In such a case, the start-stop system will detect the steering wheel angle, transmission mode (e.g., reverse gear), or other factors and disable itself automatically. This will offer you complete control over your vehicle’s movement. Now that we’ve explored why your start-stop system may stop working, let’s check out the steps you can take to identify the root problem. Inspecting start-stop systems can be tricky, as multiple parts could be causing the problem. It would be best to call a mechanic for thorough troubleshooting. Here’s what they’ll do: Connect the OBD-II scanner to check whether any error code, such as P0562 (low battery voltage), is active. Use an advanced battery tester to check the voltage and resistance. The battery voltage should be around 12.4V or above, while the resistance should be as low as 2%. Test the alternator’s voltage using a multimeter. It should be around 12.4 to 12.6 volts with the engine off and 13.8 to 14.8 volts with the engine running. Look for loose battery cables or corroded terminals. Check the fluid level and condition of essential liquids like engine oil, coolant, and transmission fluid. Your mechanic will perform certain repairs to resolve the issue based on the diagnosis. Let’s look at some of them. To restore your car’s auto start-stop system, your mechanic will perform these common maintenance and repair procedures: Clean the corroded battery terminals Install a high-quality original battery and alternator Change the faulty sensors, their wires, and connectors Recalibrate the sensors Refill the coolant as per the recommended level Fix the radiator leak or replace it if it’s damaged Check for refrigerant leaks in the air conditioning system Update or reprogram your car’s computer Verify that there are no technical service bulletins or recalls by the manufacturer After the required repairs, they’ll clear the error code and test-drive the car to see if the feature works. Wondering whether repairing a start-stop system is worth the hassle?Let’s weigh its advantages and disadvantages to make an informed decision. To understand whether this feature is a boon or bane, have a look at these points: Reduces carbon emissions by up to 8% Increases fuel economy by up to 7.27% to 26.4% Offers quieter journeys Causes premature wear of components like the starter motor, battery, and engine mounts Could lead to excess condensation in the exhaust system, causing corrosion of metal engine parts Has a high maintenance cost, as an original battery for this system is costly Is unhelpful in crowded junctions and turns where you can’t halt long enough for the system to engage If you’re not convinced about its benefits and want to deactivate the start-stop system, keep scrolling to know whether that’s the best choice. You shouldn’t. Auto start-stop systems reduce fuel consumption and exhaust gases. But if you disable it, you’re signing up for multiple visits to the gas station and putting the environment at risk. However, if you’re driving to the hospital for an emergency or riding uphill, disabling the system is the right choice. You can temporarily deactivate it using these two methods: Refer to the owner’s manual and access the vehicle settings to switch off the feature. Some vehicles also have a button to turn it off temporarily. Use an aftermarket auto start-stop eliminator. CAUTION: There is no permanent way to turn off the system, so these methods may come with risks. For example, aftermarket eliminators purchased from unauthorized sellers can void your existing warranty. It’s best to do thorough research on products before making any changes to the system. Auto start-stop systems are revolutionary, as they help modern vehicles improve their fuel efficiency and prevent environmental damage. However, regular maintenance is necessary to support such a system. If you suspect your start-stop function is failing, schedule an inspection ASAP. Our expert mechanics at AutoNation Mobile Service can test your car battery and check the functionality of start-stop components, like the clutch pedal sensor, right from your driveway. The best part?We offer after-hours customer support and easy online bookings to make repairs accessible. Contact us to get your auto start-stop system up and running. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Start-stop technology makes driving more economical and environmentally friendly. Because of this, by 2020 one in three cars on our roads will be equipped with this technology. For example, if a car stops at traffic lights, the start-stop system switches off the engine. As soon as the clutch pedal is pressed again, or the brake is released in the case of an automatic transmission, the engine starts again immediately.In addition to frequent engine starts, which the battery must supply for this process, it also supplies all of the electronic consumers even when the engine is switched off. You could say that the car battery is the heart of the system for modern vehicles. It is often assisted by an intelligent Battery Management System (BMS), which is, so to speak, the brain of the car’s electronics. The reason why the start-stop system does not function can be due to the interaction between both of these essential systems.The battery management switches off the start-stop functionThe top priority for any battery is to start the engine. However, if the battery only has a low charge, the Battery Management System (BMS) switches off the start-stop function to enable the engine to be started. A similar protective mechanism operates in the following cases:The wrong battery technology has been installed, which can only provide a small number of charging cycles.The outside temperature is too high or too low. If the battery needs too much power to supply the fan, the start-stop function is switched off. When, and whether this happens, depends on the comfort settings by the particular car manufacturer. It may also be the case that the start-stop function is still supported, but the air conditioning system is automatically reduced.The engine temperature is too high or too low. If the engine is not heated by consumers or by the battery, it must generate its own heat by combustion, which requires a higher starting current. The result: The start-stop function is not activated. If the engine threatens to become too hot, it has to be cooled by the fan on the radiator, because the airstream is not sufficient or does not exist when stopped at traffic lights. The fan requires a large current, so that the start-stop function is not activated.The wrong battery technology causes problemsA further cause could be that when it was replaced, the battery was not correctly registered by the vehicle. For example, if the technology or battery capacity are not entered correctly, the BMS cannot use the correct algorithm. If the battery is not even registered as new by the vehicle, it could be the case that the battery is not detected as new and therefore its full potential is not used.You can find out more about this topic in our article about the risks of replacing a start-stop battery with a conventional battery.Factors which are independent of the batteryThere are also factors which interrupt the start-stop function, which do not depend on the battery:The safety belts are not being wornThe car doors or the hood are not properly closed.The parking assistant is activeThe car is driving up a steep hill (gradient too large)If the start-stop function fails very often, or does not activate at all, it is advisable to visit a workshop as soon as possible. In this case, with a battery test, the experts can find out whether the battery needs to be replaced. The start-stop system is critical to preserving the fuel economy and fuel efficiency of modern vehicles. When a stop-start system stops working, it is because the battery or the engine may overheat. If you’re having issues with your start-stop system, I know a few ways to fix the most common issues. I can help you prevent them from happening later. Once only a part of hybrid cars, start-stop technology is now a part of most modern vehicles. The system has many great advantages, like reducing emissions produced by gas-powered vehicles. Another reason car companies added start-stop systems to their cars is the system increases fuel efficiency. So if you have a start-stop system in your vehicle, you should have more money! Hybrid car owners are always able to avoid going to the gas station! Now you can take all the money you’re saving from your start-stop system and use it to buy new underwear! Yes, your wife told me and I am very disappointed in you! But like any system, especially one in your car, you will come across the occasional issue from time to time. So let me teach you about the different reasons why the auto start-stop system in your car stop working. Start-stop systems need a special battery to run inside a car’s engine. It is a special battery that allows these start-stop systems to constantly turn off and turn on again and stay idle. A regular battery just can’t do this. If you notice your start-stop system isn’t working, check if your check engine light is flashing on and off. If it is, you have to go to the mechanic and get your battery diagnosed. You may be able to drive your vehicle without a functioning start-stop system. However, the fuel efficiency won’t be as good. This is kind of funny when I learned about it because most people don’t want to work in cold weather. Now the systems in our vehicles don’t want to either! You need to give your vehicle enough time to warm up in freezing cold weather. If you don’t, the start-stop system will not activate until the engine is at the right temperature. You need to wait and let your car warm up until your computer dashboard signals to you that your start-stop system is ready. You can drive your car if the weather is too cold for the start-stop system to activate. However, your car will produce higher emissions. It also won’t perform as well with its fuel efficiency. In certain car models, having your wheels turned at a sharp angle will override the start-stop system and your engine will not turn off. The reason for this is based on what the computer system expects the driver to do. A car with its wheel placed in a hard angular turn will need to propel quickly to make a turn. In this case, the start-stop system won’t activate so the car to pick up speed quickly There’s nothing you can do to change the start-stop system in these types of situations. It is built into the computer system. If you experiment, you can find the perfect angle degree turn. The wheels of your vehicle should be in the direction you want to turn, but your system will stay active. But since this only happens at very angular turns, it won’t really be a big issue in your daily driving commute. Modern cars may be creations of engineering genius, but they’re not perfect. Every computer system does its best to preserve the battery. So if you’re using the AC or the heater at full blast, it takes a lot of energy out of the battery. So why are you trying to warm up or cool down the inside of your vehicle, the start-stop system won’t activate. There’s just not enough charge in the battery to fuel all these different functions. However, if you reduce the power of your heater or AC, then the system will activate. It’s all about to give and take. Hey, that reminds me of my wedding night! Yes, you read that correctly and I can’t say I’m not a little disappointed. The start-stop system seems like a great way to save money at the gas station and reduce enough smog going into the air. But all these great advantages won’t appear unless my car is 100% fully charged? That’s a major bummer, especially since I can’t always charge my hybrid vehicle. In this situation, the only thing you can do is constantly keep your hybrid car charged up. Do this as much as to take advantage of the benefits of the start-stop system in your car. So there are two reasons why your start-stop system may not be activating. The first reason is that there is an issue with the battery or with the central system. The second reason could be that it is a part of how the start-stop system functions. If you want to learn a bit more about how the start-stop system in your personal car operates, read the manufacturer’s manual or guidebook. There should be a lot of useful information in the book. If you don’t have one, I don’t blame you. I don’t have mine either, just send an email over to the manufacturer and they can give you a PDF of your manual. You can also send them questions about your start-stop system. Make sure to provide them with the make, model, and year of your vehicle. Is your car’s stop-start system on the blink at the moment? If it isn’t working as you think it should, there might be a very good reason for it. Stop-start is designed to save you fuel and cut a car’s exhaust emissions by reducing the amount of time your engine sits idling without going anywhere. And it’s on nine out of every 10 new cars sold. But if it stops stopping, is it a problem? And should you take your car to the garage? It might be due to the cold weather The weather’s been so chilly lately, I’ve struggled to get out of bed in the morning. And I’m not the only one the cold’s affected. Stop-start won’t intervene when the engine is cold. This is because the car’s computer is sufficiently savvy to know that an engine is at its most efficient when it’s fully warm. Therefore the clever computer keeps the engine running until it’s at an optimal temperature. You’ll know the stop-start has stopped working because an A in a circle with a line through it will appear on the dash. What kit have you switched on? Stop-start is clever enough to monitor the battery and how much current is being drawn from it. If it’s cold and you’ve switched the lights, wipers and heater on it may decide that cutting the engine isn’t going to do the battery any favours. This is because all those features will then be drawing electric current from the battery. The computer knows the battery’s most important job is ensuring the engine starts. So it disables the stop-start in case the battery is drained so much the engine won’t re-start. Or maybe your battery needs checking Cars with stop-start use special batteries that can withstand constantly starting an engine. I read somewhere that while a ‘normal’ car’s engine would start up about 50,000 times during the car’s life, on a stop-start car, that figure would be around 500,000. To make all those starts seamless, the stop-start won’t kick in if it detects the battery is dying and it’s going to struggle to restart the car. Other reasons why stop-start may not work Here’s something not everyone knows. Stop-start won’t operate when reverse gear is selected or a parking aid is active. Having the wheel turned at an acute angle will prevent it working too. The system realises there’s a high chance you’re manoeuvring and will find the engine cutting out every few seconds more than a little irritating. And the car is smart enough to disable stop-start when you’re on a steep hill. Neither will it work if there are any faults with the engine management system. You’ll know this because a warning light will illuminate on the dashboard. Should a mechanic check your car over? Stop-start not working might be a sign the battery is about to pack up. Best to change it before this happens (Picture istock/lentolo) It really depends on when the stop-start doesn’t work. If the weather isn’t too cold or you’ve been driving at speed for longer than 20 minutes and it still doesn’t work when you come to a halt, it’s definitely worth taking your car to see a mechanic. Chances are the battery needs replacing. I always think it’s best to do this before it actually fails and leaves you stranded somewhere. How does stop-start work? The system works with the car’s main computer. It detects when the car is stationary and out of gear (if the car’s a manual) or the brake pedal is pressed (if it’s an automatic). It then tells the car to stop delivering fuel to the cylinders. When the system realises the driver wants to move off because they’ve released the brake or dipped the clutch pedal, the ignition starts again. The driver shouldn’t have to do anything to re-start the engine. Scott Wilson is vehicle and customer data insight manager for Green Flag The start-stop system is critical to preserving the fuel economy and fuel efficiency of modern vehicles. When a stop-start system stops working, it is because the battery or the engine may overheat. If you’re having issues with your start-stop system, I know a few ways to fix the most common issues. I can help you prevent them from happening later. Once only a part of hybrid cars, start-stop technology is now a part of most modern vehicles. The system has many great advantages, like reducing emissions produced by gas-powered vehicles. Another reason car companies added start-stop systems to their cars is the system increases fuel efficiency. So if you have a start-stop system in your vehicle, you should have more money! Hybrid car owners are always able to avoid going to the gas station! Now you can take all the money you’re saving from your start-stop system and use it to buy new underwear! Yes, your wife told me and I am very disappointed in you! But like any system, especially one in your car, you will come across the occasional issue from time to time. So let me teach you about the different reasons why the auto start-stop system in your car stop working. Start-stop systems need a special battery to run inside a car’s engine. It is a special battery that allows these start-stop systems to constantly turn off and turn on again and stay idle. A regular battery just can’t do this. If you notice your start-stop system isn’t working, check if your check engine light is flashing on and off. If it is, you have to go to the mechanic and get your battery diagnosed. You may be able to drive your vehicle without a functioning start-stop system. However, the fuel efficiency won’t be as good. This is kind of funny when I learned about it because most people don’t want to work in cold weather. Now the systems in our vehicles don’t want to either! You need to give your vehicle enough time to warm up in freezing cold weather. If you don’t, the start-stop system will not activate until the engine is at the right temperature. You need to wait and let your car warm up until your computer dashboard signals to you that your start-stop system is ready. You can drive your car if the weather is too cold for the start-stop system to activate. However, your car will produce higher emissions. It also won’t perform as well with its fuel efficiency. In certain car models, having your wheels turned at a sharp angle will override the start-stop system and your engine will not turn off. The reason for this is based on what the computer system expects the driver to do. 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There’s just not enough charge in the battery to fuel all these different functions. However, if you reduce the power of your heater or AC, then the system will activate. It’s all about to give and take. Hey, that reminds me of my wedding night! Yes, you read that correctly and I can’t say I’m not a little disappointed. The start-stop system seems like a great way to save money at the gas station and reduce enough smog going into the air. But all these great advantages won’t appear unless my car is 100% fully charged? That’s a major bummer, especially since I can’t always charge my hybrid vehicle. In this situation, the only thing you can do is constantly keep your hybrid car charged up. Do this as much as to take advantage of the benefits of the start-stop system in your car. So there are two reasons why your start-stop system may not be activating. The first reason is that there is an issue with the battery or with the central system. The second reason could be that it is a part of how the start-stop system functions. If you want to learn a bit more about how the start-stop system in your personal car operates, read the manufacturer’s manual or guidebook. There should be a lot of useful information in the book. If you don’t have one, I don’t blame you. I don’t have mine either, just send an email over to the manufacturer and they can give you a PDF of your manual. You can also send them questions about your start-stop system. Make sure to provide them with the make, model, and year of your vehicle. The start/stop system in modern vehicles is a fuel-saving feature that automatically turns off the engine when the car comes to a stop and restarts it when the driver presses the accelerator. However, if the start/stop system is not working properly, it can cause inconvenience and reduce fuel efficiency. After a battery change, the start/stop system may not work due to a weak battery, poor wiring connections, a bad start/stop control module, or other active systems. This issue is not limited to BMW vehicles but also affects Jeep, Jeep Compass, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Alfa Romeo, Audi A4, and other makes and models. If the start/stop system is not working, it is important to diagnose and repair the issue promptly to restore proper function and maximize fuel efficiency. The engine is still warming up: When the auto start-stop feature is activated, the engine may take some time to warm up to the optimal operating temperature. If the engine is still warming up, the auto start-stop feature may not function properly. The outside temperature is too low or too high: The auto start-stop feature may also be affected by extremely high and low temperatures. If the temperature outside is too cold or too hot, the auto start-stop feature may not work as intended. The battery charge is low: The auto start-stop feature relies on the vehicle’s battery to function properly. If the battery charge is low, the auto start-stop feature may not work as it should. The battery temperature is outside the optimal operating range: The auto start-stop feature may also be affected by the battery’s temperature. If the battery temperature is too high or too low, the auto start-stop feature may not function properly. Repeated frequent stops can also deactivate the stop-start system. Some manufacturers require the car to travel a certain distance or reach a certain speed before the system can be reactivated. In diesel cars, the stop-start system may not work if the car is going through a self-cleaning process for the diesel particulate filter. Lastly, the state of charge for the battery may also affect the stop-start system, as it may not work if the charge is below 80% to prevent the risk of the car not being able to start again. What prevents auto start-stop from working. The engine auto starts/stop system in vehicles may not work when the car stops for various reasons, such as a weak battery, a malfunctioning alternator, poor wiring connections, a false start/stop control module, or other systems being active (such as the air conditioning or audio system). If the battery is weak or not fully charged, the engine may not have enough power to turn off and restart automatically. The alternator is responsible for maintaining the battery’s charge; if it is not working properly, the battery may not have enough power. Wiring issues between the battery, alternator, and start/stop control module can also prevent the system from functioning. If the start/stop control module malfunctions, the system may not work as intended. Other running systems may also prevent the start/stop system from functioning. It is recommended to have a qualified ASE mechanic diagnose and repair any issues with the start/stop system to ensure the car operates correctly and efficiently. ★★★★★ 4.8/5 (130+ Verified Reviews) ✓ Complete Access to All Vehicle Systems ✓ Free Lifetime Updates – No Hidden Fees ✓ Live Data + Advanced Bi-Directional Controls Why DIYers Trust YOUCANIC: ✓ US-Based Technical Support ✓ Detailed Diagnostic Guides ✓ 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee Read User Review & Check Price → Free Express Shipping • Trusted by 3,500+ DIYers & Mechanics The engine start/stop function is designed not to shut off the engine unless certain conditions are met or if there is an underlying problem. The system does not stop the engine if: The battery is too weak or discharged. The engine has not reached the operating temperature The driver’s door is open. The driver’s seatbelt is not bucked. The vehicle is at a high altitude. The heated windshield or heated seats are on. The hood is open. The transmission is in manual (M) mode. Transmission is in limp or emergency mode. The vehicle is stopped on a steep grade. The engine is still warming up. The outside temperature is extremely low or too high. Battery temperature is outside the ideal range. Car may not have the echo start/stop feature installed at the factory. A/C needs to maintain the interior climate temperature. The driver turns off the start/stop feature. A mechanic programmed the start/stop to stay off. Close-up of a mechanic before repairing the engine start-stop and scanning the errors with diagnostic software in a modern automobile repair shop The car automatically restarts the engine if: A car battery is getting discharged too quickly. The driver switches the heated windshield on. Defrost is on. The driver removes the seat belt. The vehicle starts to roll in neutral. The engine is required to run to maintain brake system assistance. The engine is required to run to maintain the interior cabin temperature. The start/stop system in vehicles allows the engine to turn off automatically when the car comes to a stop and turn back on when the driver presses the accelerator. If this system isn’t working properly, there are a few potential causes that a mechanic should check. Battery: The start/stop system requires a fully charged battery. If the battery is weak or dead, the system may not work. Alternator: The alternator is responsible for maintaining the battery’s charge. If the alternator is not working properly, the battery may not have enough power to run the start/stop system. Wiring: Wiring issues can prevent the start/stop system from working properly. A mechanic should check the wiring connections between the battery, alternator, and start/stop control module. Control Module: The start/stop control module controls the system. If the module malfunctions, the start/stop system may not work. Other Systems: If other systems, such as the air conditioning or audio system, are running, the start/stop system may not activate. A qualified BMW mechanic should diagnose and repair any issues with the start/stop system to ensure that the car operates correctly and efficiently. 1. Battery Too Weak So even though you can start up fine and there are no issues when you turn the key, the state of charge might be below 80%. If it’s below 80%, the engine control unit (ECU) won’t allow it to do the stop-start function. It does this because if it’s below 80%, there is a possibility that if the engine stops, it might not start back up again, and because there’s that possibility, it won’t take the risk, and it’ll disable the start/stop feature. Nine out of ten complaints referring to the stop-start system have to do with the battery being below 80% charge. The problem is that many people think their battery is fine because it starts the engine. That is not true, and if the battery’s state of health falls below that 80% threshold, the stop-start won’t work. 2. Repeated Stops Our next reason that won’t allow your stop-start to work properly is repeated stops. If the start/stop function turns off the engine once and you move again, you must travel a certain distance and drive over a certain speed to reactivate that function and use the stop-start again. This can vary from manufacturer to manufacturer. So again, refer to your owner’s manual, and you’ll be able to see specifically what you need to do to get the start/stop working again. 3. A/C Keeps Engine Running If you expect the car to stop and keep a certain temperature, the air compressor must be running, which is a lot of draining on the battery plus requires the engine to run. The car knows this, so it keeps the engine running. When the a/c or blower fan is working and if it shuts down with the engine, it might not start back up again. Since it potentially might happen, it temporarily disables the start/stop as a safety feature. 4. The Engine Hasn’t Reached the Operating Temperature The second biggest thing that will deactivate your stop-start system is the engine temperature. The engine coolant temperature needs to be above a certain threshold before allowing the start/stop system to work properly. The biggest wear that can happen to your engine is on a cold start. When you start the car first thing in the morning, it has to get to the right temperature and have enough oil circulating throughout the engine to lubricate all those moving parts. If it didn’t do that and just started on, off and on, off and on from cold, it would prematurely wear the engine and cause problems later on. The engine must warm up before the start/stop system works, which will prevent premature engine wear. 5. DPF Regen This next issue only affects diesel cars. All modern diesel cars, SUVs, and trucks have a DPF filter or a diesel particulate filter, which fills up with soot from the engine, and now and again, it needs to go through a self-cleaning process to get rid of that soot that’s in the exhaust. The ECU won’t interrupt DPF regeneration if it’s going through this procedure. The car is designed to complete this procedure as quickly as possible. It won’t shut off the engine, and it will have to restart the DPF regen again, which can take up to 30 minutes. 6. Fault Codes If fault codes are present in the engine control unit (ECU), the start/stop feature may be disabled. Most vehicles are programmed to disable the start/stop functionality when the check engine light is on and a Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) is present. To find out why your start/stop is not working or what fault codes are present, use the YOUCANIC scanner to run a full system scan on your vehicle. 7. Seat Belt Unbuckled Most cars are programmed not to shut off the engine if the driver is not wearing the seat belt. The engine automatically starts if the engine is turned off and the driver removes the seat belt. This is normal, and most cars are programmed to disable the start/stop function if the driver is not wearing the seat belt. There could be several reasons your engine echo start/stop function is not working. To determine the cause of the problem, it will be necessary to diagnose the issue and perform any necessary repairs. Using the YOUCANIC scanner to look at your vehicle, run a Quick Scan, diagnose the issue, and uncover the needed repairs. Connect the YOUCANIC scanner to the OBD-II port under the dash. All vehicles 1996 and newer have this port. Turn on the scanner and select Diagnose. Select your Make, Model, and Year or hit SmartVIN to detect the vehicle you are troubleshooting automatically. Go to Control Unit and select Engine Control Unit, which typically is the first option. Select View Live Data. Go to the Start/Stop Function and select it. The engine start/stop function may not work because the conditions set by the manufacturer are not met or because of a problem with the system. Let’s look at how to use the YOUCANIC scanner to find out why the start-stop function is not working. First, look in the owner’s manual to find out what conditions the engine needs to meet before the start/stop function starts to work. For example, most vehicle manufacturers program the start/stop to stay disabled until the car reaches the normal operating temperature or warms up. If you are unsure why the start-stop function is not working, you can use the YOUCANIC diagnostic scanner to check what prevents the engine from stopping when the vehicle stops. How do I get stop-start to work? To get the stop-start function on your car to work, you must first ensure that the system is enabled and properly functioning. Here are some steps you can take to troubleshoot the issue:Check the battery: Make sure that the battery is fully charged and functioning properly. A weak or dead battery can

prevent the stop-start system from working.Check the system settings: The stop-start function may be disabled or turned off. Consult your car’s owner’s manual or check the vehicle’s settings to see if the system is enabled.Check for malfunctions: If the system is enabled and the battery is functioning properly, there may be a problem with one or more of the system’s components. It may be necessary to have a mechanic or someone with experience in car repair diagnose the issue and suggest the appropriate repairs.Check the fuel system: If the stop-start system is not working and there are no obvious problems with the battery or system components, there may be an issue with the fuel system. This could include problems with the fuel filter or fuel pump.It’s important to note that the stop-start function may not work in all driving conditions, such as when the engine is cold or when the vehicle is being driven at high speeds. Consult your car’s owner’s manual for more information about the specific conditions under which the stop-start function is designed to work. Home » Help & Advice » Why is my car’s start-stop system not working? Your car’s stop-start system cuts costs and emissions by turning off the engine at standstills. Battery issues, cold weather, unfastened seat belts, open bonnet can affect its function. Don’t expect stop-start to work when parking or reversing due to frequent gear changes. Cutting back on fuel consumption is a big priority for everyone at the moment. Vehicle stop-start systems have proven to be a helpful way to reduce fuel usage as well as emissions. However, when your car’s start system isn’t working as expected, you may be wondering how to get to the bottom of the problem. In this article, we’ll guide you through what stop-start systems are, how they work, and how you can troubleshoot issues with yours. What is start-stop? A start-stop system, or a stop-start system, is in-built vehicle technology designed to switch your car engine off when it’s not in use, for example when the vehicle is not moving in a traffic jam or at traffic lights. This stopping and starting happens automatically and is used to prevent your engine from idling and from using unnecessary fuel. Stop-start systems, therefore, are designed to improve air quality and reduce fuel consumption, saving the planet and your pocket. Interesting! Start-stop systems can help cut CO_2 emissions by 3% – 8% (VARTA) How the start-stop system works Start-stop systems can pick up when your car is stationary by sensing when the brake pedal is in use and the gearbox in neutral. The vehicle’s onboard computer will then cut off the engine in response. It will sense the release of the brake and clutch or accelerator pedal being used, to restart the engine. The driver can choose to turn start-stop off completely by pressing the corresponding button on the car’s instrument panel. If this is not immediately obvious the button will also be outlined in the manufacturer’s handbook. Issues which may affect your car’s stop-start If your start-stop system is experiencing problems, take a look at our troubleshooting suggestions for the possible causes. Cold weather: In cold temperatures (around 3’c or below), stop-start may not kick in when the engine is cold. This is partly to protect your battery, especially if you have a heater and wipers also on, but also to allow your engine to warm up appropriately. Your car will adjust its behaviour to protect its core components – and this can include halting your stop-start system. You don’t have the right battery or the battery is low: For a start-stop system to work, it requires a battery that is powerful enough to withstand the constant starting and stopping. If your battery is not powerful enough, or simply does not have enough juice to operate in this way, then this could cause your car to inhibit the ability of the start-stop system. If you are making a manoeuvre: The car will recognise that during a manoeuvre, such as parking or reversing, for example, a lot of changing gear will naturally be taking place, and therefore the stop-start system would likely be a hindrance. If the car senses that you are making a manoeuvre, by registering the wheel is turned at a severe angle or reverse gear is engaged, it will cut out the stop-start function. Seatbelts are unfastened: Ensure that everyone in the car has their seatbelts on, and then try again to see if this corrects the problem. The bonnet is not closed properly: For safety reasons, if a car bonnet is not shut properly, this could cut out the start-stop system. Get out when it is safe to do so and check the bonnet is completely closed. Still not sure? It could be that you require a diagnostic check of your vehicle to find the cause of the failure – and to provide an effective solution. Start-stop systems are clever, but can be temperamental. If you find your car engine isn’t cutting out when in neutral, often something simple like needing a good run to charge the battery, or perhaps the system’s switched itself off are worthwhile things to check. Pete Bamford, Retail Director With over 50 years’ experience as the go-to car tyre suppliers in Central England, our talented technicians are here to help with your vehicle’s needs – from exhausts and clutches to brakes & batteries. Simply give us a call at one of our 35+ auto centres across the region.