

Welcome to the D & L Auto Tech Tips and Suggestions Area, a special service D & L Auto and Marine provides:

Problems (often called Defects) are manifested in alternators and starters that many times can be traced to malfunctions in wiring and/or other accessories on a vehicle.

D & L Auto and Marine offers Tech Tips to help recognize and properly service these problems. The Tech Tips are compiled from various sources and are directed to "service professionals." When servicing a mechanical or electrical item, be sure to follow all safety procedures. Using improper tools or procedures can result in personal injury and vehicle damage. D & L Auto and Marine will not be held liable for damages, expenses or other liabilities incurred from using these tips.

Alternator Troubleshooting Guide

Listed below are some of the most common problems that occur in alternators and charging systems, along with some likely causes and remedies. Due to the number of types of units and systems that exist, this is only a general listing of the most common problems, possible causes and remedies that are possible. You should also check your vehicle's specific tech tips.

Symptom:

Low output from alternator (seen as dim headlights, slow-blinking turn signals, etc.)

Possible causes

- . Worn, cracked, glazed or loose belt
- . Bad battery
- . Battery low on electrolyte
- . Bad battery connection
- . High voltage drop on wires
- . Voltage regulator not adjusted properly
- . Bad wiring harness or fusible links necessary
- . Bad alternator

Remedy

- . Adjust or replace belt or tensioner
- . Replace battery
- . Fill battery to proper level
- . Repair or replace connections or cables
- . Repair or replace connections or cables
- . Adjust or replace regulator as necessary
- . Isolate the problem and repair or replace as necessary
- . Replace the alternator

Alternator Trouble Shooting Guide

Symptom:

Output from alternator is too high (seen as overbright headlights, fast-blinking turn signals)

Possible causes

- . Bad battery
- . Bad/maladjusted voltage regulator
- . Bad battery connections or fusiblelink
- . Bad wiring harness connections

Remedy

- . Replace the battery
- . Adjust the regulator (when applicable) or replace the regulator or alternator
- . Repair or replace connections or cables
- . Isolate the problem and repair or replace

Symptom:

Alternator is noisy

Possible causes

- . Worn, cracked, glazed, loose, misaligned belt or faulty belt tensioner
- . Alternator mounting bolts are loose
- . Bad alternator bearing
- . Grounded Stator/blown diode
- . Loose alternator pulley
- . Worn alternator pulley (or faulty clutch pulley)

Remedy

- . Repair or replace belt or tensioner as necessary
- . Tighten as necessary
- . Replace the alternator
- . Replace the alternator
- . Repair or replace as necessary
- . Replace as necessary