

Speedy Transmission: Free Diagnostic Check for Your Transmission

We have found that most customers don't really understand what is involved in diagnosing a problem with their transmission. One of the misconceptions about car repair is about a diagnostic report. People ask us, "Can't you just hook the computer up so that it tells you what's wrong with my car?" Unfortunately, it isn't that easy.

A diagnostic computer does not tell us what is wrong with the car. Instead, the diagnostic computer gives us data from a report, to tell us about the problem and help us learn what the cause is.

When your check engine light comes on, we can receive a few diagnostic codes. (Often times, there are more than one!) These are 5 digit codes that often describe a problem that the car is having. These diagnostic codes are a starting point for us to begin when we work on your transmission. After a diagnostic report, we get a report for what the car is having an issue with, but not the direct cause of the problem. It is just an indicator to seek more information.

The next thing the computer gives us is called "freeze frame data." This is an overview of all the sensors (and the data) and everything that was going on at the time the code was tripped. Our experienced technicians can use this report to help figure out what may have happened to cause the problem. We can monitor live data from every sensor on the car and watch for anything out of the ordinary. We can also test individual components and run various tests by making a change and watching the computer data to see the result. All of these can help us narrow down the source of the problem with your car and your transmission.

Sometimes, the computer tools can take us right to the exact problem. Often times, we will need a little more hands-on (and eyes on the problem) when the computer can't give us enough information. We look under the hood and do a visual inspection, too. We look for anything abnormal or even obvious damage (smoke, burning wires, broken seals, clogs, etc.).

After a diagnosis, we may have to take things apart and inspect it, and then test individual components. Most of the time, we can get enough information to find the problem with just a few steps. There will be times when we need to spend more time with a vehicle. We may need to run tests under various conditions (driving tests, gear shifts, etc.),

Common testing to vehicles to help us determine the transmission problems are driving a cold engine, driving a hot engine, highway speeds, and in-town driving. All of these are normal conditions for everyday driving, and it helps us understand your car.

When you bring your car to Speedy Marietta, you can help us with the diagnosis by sharing as many details as you can about the problem with your car. Tell us when it happened and what we can do to re-create the same issue. This will help us

make sure we are testing the correct problems, and we can determine the source of the transmission issue a lot sooner.