

# Top Ten Signs Your Transmission Needs Repair

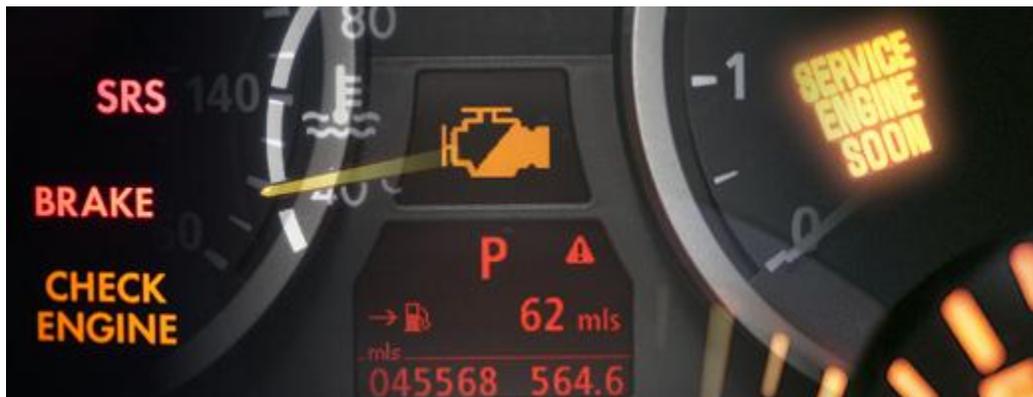
## Burning Smell inside or outside your Car

If you detect a burning smell or foul odor originating from under the vehicle or underneath the hood, then this could indicate a transmission related problem. It could signal that your transmission is overheating due to lack (or low) transmission fluid or a leak and dirty fluid.



## Leaking Fluid

One of the ways to tell your transmission may be in need of service is the appearance of fluid underneath your vehicle. Transmission fluid in automatic transmissions should appear bright red, translucent (able to see through), and have a touch of sweetness in the smell. While manual transmission fluid could be dark green, red, blackish and translucent. If you check the fluid and it is cloudy (difficult to see through), dark in color, or has a burnt smell to it, then you have a problem with your transmission. This could mean you simply need to have the leak fixed, and fluid replaced, or it could indicate your transmission is having more serious issues.



## Check Engine Light

The check engine light can indicate that sensors in your car (car's computer) have detected irregularities in your car's engine. A diagnostic scan tool (that you can purchase or have done at a shop) can be hooked up to your car and provide a code that indicates why your check engine light is on. (In some cases it might tell of a specific issue or may indicate what area of the car is not behaving correctly). While the check engine light won't usually be a transmission problem, if you have any of these other warning signs it could be a serious issue. (It can even detect issues the driver would not notice.) If the code indicates a transmission problem you should have your transmission serviced immediately (as continued use could increase the damage and the cost to fix it).

## Grinding or Shaking



When a transmission is functioning normal, you should barely notice when your shift gears. Any abnormal feeling is not a good thing. If your car is shaking or grinding (when your gears change) this could be a sign your transmission is in trouble. It could be anything from a dirty transmission, low transmission fluids, damaged transmission gear synchros (manual) or more severe issues.

**This could mean for manual transmissions:** a worn clutch, transmission's gear synchronizers (synchros) is damaged or worn out, or issues unrelated to the transmission.

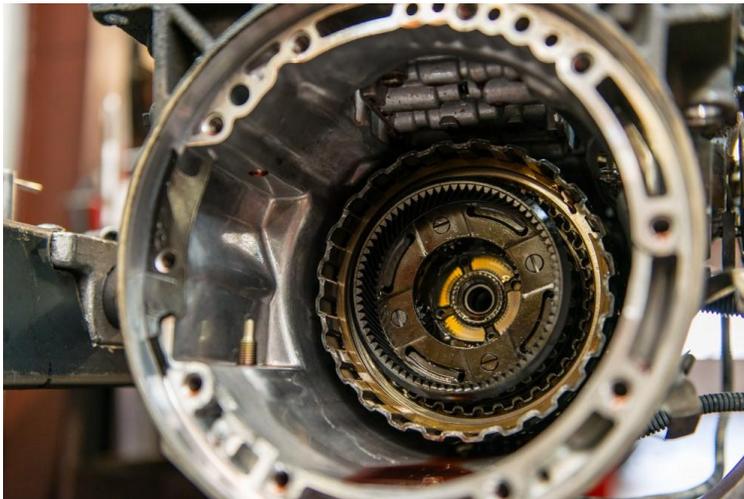
For **automatic transmissions** a shaking feeling is a clear sign your transmission is not functioning probably and should be serviced as soon as possible.

## **Whining, Clunking and Humming**

Just as a shaking or grinding in your vehicle can indicate a problem, so to can any unusual noises coming from your vehicle. Some noises could be very small issues, while other times, they could be a sign of a major issue. Clicking, whistling, buzzing, and screeching sounds could indicate a problem with your transmission.

When your car make strange noises, (especially while moving) this could mean you're having an issue with your vehicle. Pay attention to sounds such as: moans and groans, screeching, hums or low whining, clicking, grating while in gear, buzzing, and clunking when switching into drive or reverse.

## **Transmission Noisy in Neutral**



A time to pay special attention to noise is when your car is in neutral. If your car is louder than usual while in neutral, there is something wrong. It might not always be transmission related but it does mean your car has an issue that needs attention. If it is the transmission it could be something easy like transmissions fluid issues, or something more serious like worn out parts of the transmission that need replacing.

## **Delay in Vehicle Movement**

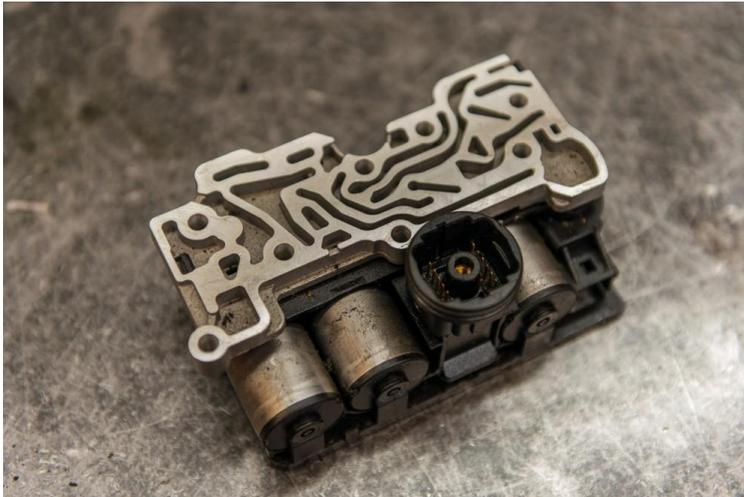
If there's a delay in your vehicles movement, than this could mean your transmission is having problems. Not only could this mean issues with your transmission, it is also a safety concern. When you pull out of somewhere and your car does not immediately respond, you could be in danger of being hit by oncoming traffic.

## Problems Shifting Gears

There are many issues that can be included with gear shift problems. Some of them will also overlap with other warning signs. A few to note are:

- car not wanting to go into gear
- when going into gear or shifting, gear resist and/or causes shaking or noises
- car has a hard time getting up to speed
- car shifts at unexpected times
- delay when shifting from park to drive or reverse
- car tries to move in park
- Any and all of the issues are a clear sign that your transmission needs immediate service.
- Gears Slipping

This could be included in the “problems shifting gears” section, but it is important to highlight it.



A slip in the gears of your transmission not only signals a problem with your transmission, it can also be a safety concern. If you need to accelerate (when pulling onto the street, or getting on the interstate) and your gear slips, it could prevent you from increasing your speed by going into neutral, or it could go to a lower or higher gear than expecting and over rev your engine or prevent you from accelerating at the speed you thought you would. This will damage your vehicle and put you in harm's way.

## Surging or Jumping of the Vehicle



When your car surges or jumps for no reasons, this could mean an issue with your vehicle's transmission. It could be because your transmission or transmission fluid is contaminated with dirt or other debris. This would prevent the proper flow of transmission fluid and keeps your transmission from running smoothly and doesn't allow the transmission to develop enough pressure to stay in the correct gear.

If your car is showing any of these transmission warning signs, you should have it checked out by an experienced mechanic immediately. Delaying getting it checked out could cause further damages and increase the repair cost.