

Troubleshooting Basic Turn Signal and Flasher Problems

Most problems in the turn signals or flasher system can be reduced to defective flashers or bulbs, which are easily replaced. Occasionally, problems in the turn signals are traced to the switch in the steering column, which will require professional service.

F = Front R = Rear ● = Lights off ○ = Lights on

Problem	Solution
Turn signals light, but do not flash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the flasher
No turn signals light on either side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the fuse. Replace if defective. • Check the flasher by substitution • Check for open circuit, short circuit or poor ground
Both turn signals on one side don't work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for bad bulbs • Check for bad ground in both housings
One turn signal light on one side doesn't work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check and/or replace bulb • Check for corrosion in socket. Clean contacts. • Check for poor ground at socket
Turn signal flashes too fast or too slow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check any bulb on the side flashing too fast. A heavy-duty bulb is probably installed in place of a regular bulb. • Check the bulb flashing too slow. A standard bulb was probably installed in place of a heavy-duty bulb. • Check for loose connections or corrosion at the bulb socket
Indicator lights don't work in either direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if the turn signals are working • Check the dash indicator lights • Check the flasher by substitution
One indicator light doesn't light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On systems with 1 dash indicator: See if the lights work on the same side. Often the filaments have been reversed in systems combining stoplights with taillights and turn signals. Check the flasher by substitution • On systems with 2 indicators: Check the bulbs on the same side. Check the indicator light bulb. Check the flasher by substitution