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Exhaust Seats Receding Into Cylinder Head In 1999-2001 Honda 2.0L Engines

S. B. International, Inc., offers the following information on exhaust seats receding into cylinder head on 1999-2001 Honda 2.0L engines. Vehicle owners may complain of rough idle, hard to start, poor engine performance or malfunction indicator lamp comes on with the following engine codes: P0301, P0302, P0303, P0304, or P0172.

The cause of this problem seems to be when one or more exhaust valves has sunk into the cylinder head. If that occurs it could cause a cylinder misfire because the valves are not closing completely.

To help determine if a valve or valves have receded into the cylinder head, measure the valve lash clearance on all exhaust valve locations. The misfire code most likely is not your concern if they are all within specification (.003-.005" Intake and .006-.008" Exhaust). If the valves are below specification, then more than likely the valves have receded into the cylinder head.

Many shops have successfully repaired cylinder heads by installing seats into the head curing the problem. Vehicle owners should be aware that a possible rich fuel mixture may have caused the problem of the valves receding into the cylinder head.