



## Headlight Not Working — What It Is, and What It Costs

How real visits for a headlight out ended at independent shops across the US — the part actually replaced, how often, and what it cost when it was the only fix.

### Bulb

The single most common outcome — nearly half of these visits when combined with the runner-up

Bulb **\$38 – \$146**

Headlight **\$60 – \$272**

typical cost when it was the only fix  
(parts + labor)

| THE FIX INVOLVED    | SHARE OF THESE VISITS*                                   | TYPICAL COST† | MEDIAN |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Bulb                | <div><div></div></div> 72.8%                             | \$38 – \$146  | \$73   |
| Headlight           | <div><div></div></div> 15.9%                             | \$60 – \$272  | \$131  |
| Other, rarer causes | smaller shares — sockets, relays, fuses, dimmer switches | varies        | —      |

\*Share of visits whose repair involved this part; combined repairs count toward each part, so shares overlap and don't add to 100%.

†Middle half of real invoices when this was the only fix — parts + labor, all vehicle types.

#### WHICH ONE IS YOURS? LISTEN FIRST

- **One side out** — A single dead low beam with everything else working is a bulb until proven otherwise.
- **Both out, or flickering** — Both headlights failing together, or lights that flicker with bumps, point past the bulbs to a switch, relay, or wiring — less common in these outcomes, and worth proper diagnosis rather than parts roulette.
- **Moisture in the housing** — A fogged or wet housing kills bulbs repeatedly and eventually corrodes the connector.

#### WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

One side out is a bulb — ask about access, because on some vehicles the bumper comes off to reach it, and that's the price. Both sides out or flickering is a switch, relay or wiring problem that needs diagnosis. A housing full of moisture means the assembly, not another bulb.

#### ABOUT THIS DATA · HOW TO USE THIS BRIEF

Vehicles **all makes and models, US fleet**

Data confidence **High** — *large sample, stable shares*

Records through **July 2026**, refreshed continuously

Source **paid invoices from independent US repair shops**

Take it to the shop. It tells you what the likely answers are and what each one should cost — so when the diagnosis comes back, you already know whether the number fits. Vehicle-specific price reports for the common fixes are on [fixdozer.com](https://fixdozer.com).

#### NOT A DIAGNOSIS

This brief describes how other owners' visits for a headlight out ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.