



Airbag Light On — What It Usually Means

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

Sensor

The single most common outcome — about a third of these visits when combined with the runner-up

Sensor **\$180 – \$433**

Spring / clock spring **\$197 – \$676**

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

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Sensor	23.1%	\$180 – \$433	\$287
Spring / clock spring	12.8%	\$197 – \$676	\$391
Drive belt	9.1%	\$111 – \$321	\$185
Module / actuator	7.5%	\$254 – \$696	\$413
Cables / wiring	3.5%	\$121 – \$392	\$225
Airbag component	3.1%	\$154 – \$671	\$310
Fuse	2.5%	\$56 – \$239	\$115
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — seat sensors, connectors under the seats, crash sensors	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

- **Light after seat movement** — The most common trigger lives under the front seats: connectors for the seat-mounted sensors and side airbags flex with every adjustment and eventually fault.
- **Light with steering-wheel history** — The clock spring — the wound ribbon cable inside the steering column — wears out and takes the driver's airbag circuit with it.
- **After a battery change or jump** — Low-voltage events can set airbag codes that persist until cleared with a scan tool.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

An airbag light is a stored code — expect the scan and a circuit test, not a guess. A clock spring or a connector under a seat is the common finding; a bag or seat module the expensive one. The light means the system may not deploy; it's worth fixing, and diagnosis time is legitimate here.

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.

NOT A DIAGNOSIS This brief describes how other owners' visits for an airbag light ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.