



Headlight or Brake Light Not Working — What It Usually Is

How real visits for a light 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**

Light assembly **\$58 – \$262**

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

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Bulb	68.2%	\$38 – \$146	\$73
Light assembly	8.3%	\$58 – \$262	\$130
Switch	7.2%	\$126 – \$344	\$216
Headlight	7.1%	\$60 – \$272	\$131
Fuse	3.3%	\$56 – \$239	\$115
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — fuses, sockets, switches, wiring harnesses	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 light out** — A single dark lamp is almost always the bulb.
- **Both brake lights out with the third working** — The center high-mount light runs its own circuit — both mains dark with it lit points at the brake-light switch at the pedal, not two coincidental bulbs.
- **Flickering or dim** — Flicker and dimness are connection problems: corroded sockets and grounds.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

One light out is a bulb; both sides out, or flickering, is a switch, relay or wiring problem that needs diagnosis. Expect the shop to check the bulb and socket first — corroded sockets are common. A full assembly is quoted when the housing is damaged or the internal wiring has burned.

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 a light out ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.