

# Profile:

- What is this for?

This is an emergency guide intended for drivers who are having electrical problems while traveling in their car and who may have a blown fuse. This is a generic guide that will cover a variety of makes and models.

- Who is it for?

This is intended for a lay audience whose skill level is similar to replacing a lightbulb.

- The Client.

The client is American Automobile Association (AAA), an automotive organization that provides roadside assistance to 58 million members across the country.

- How is it delivered? For example, is it part of a larger document?

This is a short printed guide intended to be kept in a glove box, also a short help guide on a website that can be accessed by a smartphone.

- What does the user need to know?

The user needs to know:

1. how to replace a fuse safely,
2. that there are different types of fuses and different amperages of fuses,
3. the names of specific parts (fuse, fuse puller, fuse box),
4. where fuse boxes are often located,
5. what a fuse box looks like,
6. that fuse boxes may be located in different places depending on the make and model of car,
7. what a blown fuse looks like,
8. a burned fuse is a sign that there could be an electrical problem in their vehicle.  
The driver should take their vehicle to a mechanic after a fuse burns out,
9. how to contact AAA if they can't resolve their problem on their own.

Are there hidden hazards?

There are several possible risks:

1. There is the risk of electrocution.
2. There is a risk that a driver could be hit by traffic if they stop in an unsafe area.
3. There is a risk that a driver could continue to drive without proper instrumentation, headlights, turn signals, or other safety equipment.



For emergency roadside assistance call 1-800-AAA-HELP

## Replacing an Electrical Fuse in Your Car, Truck or SUV

Fuses protect your vehicle's electrical system; however, a blown fuse can prevent your headlights, taillights, stereo, turn signals, interior lights, power windows, door locks, or other electrical components from operating.

This guide will show you how to safely identify and replace a blown fuse and what to do if you can't find a blown fuse but are still having electrical problems.



Don't stop in busy traffic or on the side of a highway. Drive to the next exit or the nearest parking lot before troubleshooting your vehicle.



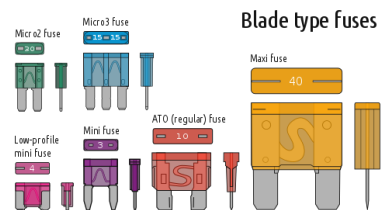
Don't drive at night if your headlights, taillights, or turn signals stop working. Pull over to the shoulder or into the nearest parking lot and call roadside assistance.

**1-800-AAA-HELP**

### 1). Locate the fuse box

- Read your vehicle user manual to locate the fuse box.
- If you don't have your user manual, you could look in several locations:

Look for a flat black box below the steering column, under the glove box, in the dashboard next to the driver or passenger door, under the hood, under the back seat, or in the trunk.



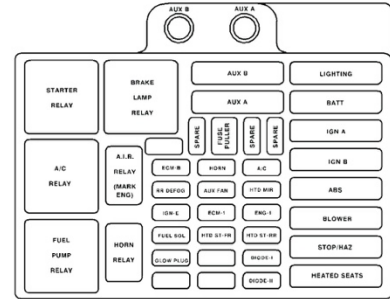
There are several types of fuse that might be in your vehicle.



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## 2). Identify the blown fuse

- Open the fuse box by pulling the cover off. There may be plastic tabs holding it in place.
- The cover will have a diagram with labels indicating which fuse is connected to specific electrical components in your vehicle.

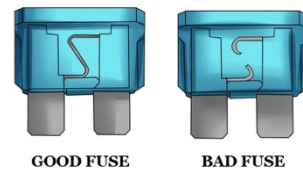


Example of a fuse box diagram.

- Your vehicle manual will also have a diagram indicating which fuse connects to specific electrical systems in your vehicle.
- In the fuse box or on the fuse box cover there should be a small plastic fuse puller.
- Once you've identified which fuse has probably failed, use the fuse puller to pull out the fuse.
- A thin piece of metal connects the two sides of a fuse. If the metal is missing that indicates that you've found the failed fuse.



Fuse puller holding a fuse.





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### 3). Replace the blown fuse

#### **CAUTION**

Different fuses have different amperages. Don't replace a fuse with a fuse that has a different amperage.

The color and number on a fuse tell you which amperage the fuse has. Always replace fuses with the same number and color to ensure that you are using the correct amperage.

- The fuse box will have several spare fuses in slots labeled "SPARE".  
Pull a fuse out of a spare slot and place it firmly in the slot that had the burned-out fuse. Be sure to use a fuse that has the same number and color as the original.
- Reattach the fuse box cover.

### 4). Check the electrical component

- Check the failed electrical component to see if it's working again.  
If the fuse was connected to the headlights, taillights, turn signals or brake lights, visually check that they're working again.

### 5). Contact AAA

- If these steps don't resolve your electrical problem and you are in need of roadside assistance, call AAA at **1-800-AAA-HELP** or **1-800-222-4357**.

### 6). Take your vehicle in for service

- If these steps don't resolve your electrical problem and you can safely drive your vehicle, take your vehicle to a reliable mechanic.
- If a fuse repeatedly fails, that indicates that there is an electrical problem with your vehicle. Take it in for service.