

Flashing diagnostic light of furnace circuit board

Circuit boards:

*In the last 10 or 15 years most furnaces have a main primary circuit board. Most of the furnaces relays and circuits are integrated into, or run through these boards allowing an ability to provide a self-diagnostic light on the board to help indicate where a system failure happened. These board will allow a retrieval if the sequence of operation is not completed through ignition, or if it is interrupted during its cycle. After a set number of failed retrievals the furnace will go into "lock out", once "lock out" is reached the diagnostic light will flash a failure code and usually not try to start again until manually reset. Some boards will automatically come out of lock-out a few hours later and try again but it is not the norm. To reset the board power must be interrupted for a short period, about 20 seconds, to achieve this simply shut the breaker off, the switch on the side of the furnace off, or even turn the thermostat "off". **Important:** once the power is interrupted, and the board is reset, the diagnostic light will quit flashing and its failure code will be erased (some newer boards have a button on the board to see last failure), so before you reset the board try to get the failure code so you know what caused the failure and you can tell our technician what the code was in case the problem is an intermittent one.*

Flashing diagnostic code:

The circuit board with the diagnostic light is usually located in the blower compartment and a small, quarter sized plastic window in the blower door allows you to see the light without removing the door. The blower door has a safety switch behind it and removing the door opens this switch, interrupting power and will reset the board, so try to get the code without removing the door. Sometimes the window is not in the perfect place to see the flashing light so you may have to look at different angles or turn off lights around the furnace to see it better. Some furnaces have one red light, others have two, while still others have lights that not only flash but change colors, but all diagnostic lights will continue to repeat the failure code. There are many variations, for example, a Coleman Mobile home furnace will have one red light and a code that repeats 3 flashes, stops, repeats, this means "pressure switch failed to close", where a Bryant will flash short flash/flashes followed by long flash/flashes, the short flashes is the first digit and the long flashes are the second digit, so your code may be 2 short flashes followed by 4 long flashes. This code would be 24 which means the furnace fuse is open (bad). The legend for your furnace should be somewhere on one of the doors, inside or out, or in the furnace manual, or simply "Google" your furnace brand name and model diagnostic code.