



# 2020 Ford F-150 Dashboard Lights Guide



FREE  
eBook!



Andy Mohr 

AndyMohrFord.com  
317-342-0833

As technology advances over the years and more of it makes its way into cars, the number of dashboard lights you'll see when you look at the instrument panel seems to grow, too. In the 2020 Ford F-150, there are **more than 30 dashboard lights**—and that's a lot to remember!

This *2020 Ford F-150 Dashboard Lights Guide* will illuminate the purpose of each F-150 dashboard light, so you'll have an easy reference when one of them begins to glow. This guide will cover:

- Individual dashboard light functions
- How to visually identify each dashboard light
- How to respond to each dashboard light

When you're finished reading, you won't be caught unaware the next time a dashboard light begins to glow. Obviously, keeping 30+ different lights in mind would require an impressive act of mental juggling, but it's not one you need to perform: Just keep this guide handy for the next time you need to decipher a dashboard light.

Are you ready? We'll break it down for you in terms of **warning lights** and **indicator lights**, each of which serves a different purpose in terms of alerting the driver to crucial vehicle information.





## Service Required: 2020 Ford F-150 Warning Lights

Warning lights are a good place to start since they each require a very specific response to keep your vehicle in good repair. In the Ford F-150, **warning lights glow red** to signify urgency. You should schedule service as soon as possible to have the issue checked and addressed.

### Anti-Lock Braking System Warning

This light shows the letters “ABS” inside a small circle. If it glows while you’re driving, you should have your F-150 checked for a malfunction with the anti-lock braking system that helps avoid skidding and maintains traction on slippery surfaces. Normal braking should continue to work fine.

### Battery Warning

This light looks like—you guessed it—a battery, with positive (+) and negative (-) terminals indicated. The battery light will illuminate momentarily when you switch on the ignition, but if it continues to glow during your drive, check your battery for a malfunction, including a weak charge and physical, electrical, or chemical damage.



## Brake System Warning

Driving when this warning lamp is lit can be dangerous since your brakes may work less effectively and take longer to bring the car to a full stop. If this lamp lights up during your drive, schedule a complete brake inspection to find the problem.

If you have the parking brake in use while the ignition is on or your F-150 is low on brake fluid, this lamp will also light. You'll see the word "BRAKE" and an exclamation point (!) inside a circle.

## Check 4x4 Warning

In F-150 models equipped with 4-wheel drive, you'll see a wrench symbol and the message "Check 4x4" in the driver information display when you have a 4-wheel drive malfunction. Have your vehicle's system checked as soon as possible.

## Diesel Exhaust Fluid Warning

If your F-150 runs on the 3.0L Power Stroke® turbocharged diesel engine, the Diesel Exhaust Fluid warning light illuminates when the diesel exhaust fluid is low or contaminated. This fluid helps prevent any harmful nitrogen oxide pollution, so if you want to keep your diesel clean, then have it checked.



Andy Mohr 

AndyMohrFord.com  
317-342-0833



## Door Ajar Warning

This light shows an overhead sketch of a car with open front doors, and it alerts you to the presence of a door that hasn't been fully closed. Solving this can be as simple as closing the door, but if you're having a latch issue, you'll want to have your vehicle's doors inspected and repaired by a trained technician.

## Engine Coolant Temperature Warning

If this thermometer in liquid icon begins to glow while you're driving, it's a sign the engine is overheating. Stop the car as soon as you can do so safely and turn off the engine. Have your vehicle's engine inspected before you do any more driving.

## Fasten Seatbelt Warning

Wearing a seatbelt should be second nature, but if you need that extra reminder, the F-150 provides. This seatbelt sign will illuminate and an audible chime will sound until you fasten the seatbelts.

## Front Airbag Warning

This signal shows an airbag represented as a circle in front of a passenger's profile that leans backward due to the force of deployment. If it doesn't illuminate momentarily when you start your truck or if it starts and continues to flash or remain on, you may have a malfunctioning front airbag. Have this inspected before you're put in a situation where that airbag is needed.





## Low Fuel Level Warning

This light looks like a refueling pump, and that's exactly where you should head if it lights up. Refuel your truck as soon as possible before you lose essential vehicle functions on the road.

## Low Tire Pressure Warning

If this lamp illuminates while you're driving, your tire pressure is likely low and you'll need to add air. Low tire pressure puts you at risk of a blowout—a definite safety hazard on the road. The Low Tire Pressure Warning lamp appears as an exclamation point (!) within a tire flattened at the bottom.

## Low Washer Fluid Level Warning

Windshield washer fluid ensures a clean, clear look at the road and cars ahead of you, and this lamp warns you when the fluid is low and needs to be replenished. The lamp itself depicts fluid spraying over a windshield.

## Oil Pressure Warning

This lamp looks like an oil can and glows momentarily when you switch on the ignition. However, if it illuminates during your drive, you may have either a low oil level or a system malfunction. Stop the car as soon as you can and turn off the engine. Check the engine oil level. If it's sufficient, have your system checked for other problems.





## Powertrain Malfunction Warning

If a powertrain or 4-wheel drive fault is detected, this wrench-shaped warning light will glow, indicating that your vehicle needs service immediately.

## Service Engine Soon

This warning light looks like an engine and glows to indicate a malfunction of the vehicle emissions control system. Your engine may be misfiring, which can damage the catalytic converter. Drive moderately—avoid accelerating or decelerating too quickly—and schedule service as soon as possible.

The Service Engine Soon lamp will illuminate momentarily when you ignite the engine. It should turn off shortly afterward, but if it flashes eight times after 15 seconds, it indicates that your Ford F-150 isn't ready for Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) testing.



## Water in Fuel Warning

If you're using the diesel engine and pump water-contaminated diesel fuel into your fuel tank, your truck's fuel system will filter the water from the fuel. This warning light, which looks like a fueling station with a few water droplets to the side, will glow when the fuel and water separator is full of water and needs to be drained. Stop the truck, shut off the engine, and drain the water to avoid fuel injection system damage.

## For Your Information: 2020 Ford F-150 Indicator Lights

The 2020 Ford F-150's indicator lights differ from the warning lights in that they aren't alerting you to an issue with the vehicle. These **indicator lights illuminate in green** to acknowledge that specific features are currently in use. You don't need to schedule service when these lights appear.



Andy Mohr 

AndyMohrFord.com  
317-342-0833





## A Rundown of 2020 Ford F-150 Indicator Lights

**Adaptive Cruise Control Indicator:** This light glows in the shape of a speedometer with a car and arrow over it when you switch on the Adaptive Cruise Control feature. It glows white when in standby mode and green when you set the adaptive cruise speed.

**Automatic Headlamp High Beam Indicator:** A glowing headlamp symbol with the letter “A” inside glows when the headlamp high beams turn on automatically.

**Automatic Regen Control Off:** Automatic Regen Control helps you use braking to recharge your battery. If you manually shut off this system, a brake-shaped symbol with the word “OFF” will glow.

**Auto-Start-Stop Indicator:** Showing the letter “A” enclosed in a partial circle, this indicator illuminates if the engine automatically stops. It flashes to let you know when the engine needs to restart. If your F-150 model isn’t equipped with this system, the indicator will be shown with a strikethrough.

**Blind Spot Monitor Indicator:** When you switch off the system, this indicator that depicts a car sensing another car in its blind spot and the word “OFF” will light.

**Cruise Control Indicator:** This light shows a full-circle speedometer with an arrow pointing to a speed mark on the gauge. When you turn on Cruise Control, it will illuminate.



**Direction Indicator:** You're probably more than familiar with these arrows that flash to the left or right when you signal a turn or lane change. If they flash quicker than normal, this signals that the indicator bulb has failed and needs replacement.

**Electronic Locking Differential:** This lamp appears as a sketch of a vehicle chassis and shows an "X" on the rear axle. It glows when you have the Electronic Locking Differential that locks both wheels on the axle together in use.

**4-Wheel Drive Indicators:** These four indicators light depending on the drive mode you're using: "2H" means 2-wheel drive high, "4A" means automatic 4-wheel drive, "4L" means 4-wheel drive low, and "4H" means 4-wheel drive high.

**Front Fog Lamps Indicator:** This indicator light uses the image of a lit headlamp with crisscrossed lines in front of it, and it lights up when you switch on the front fog lamps.

**High Beam Indicator:** This headlamp-shaped indicator lights up when you turn on the headlamp high beams.

**Hill Descent Indicator:** Shaped like a vehicle moving downhill, this indicator glows when Hill Descent Control is switched on to help control the speed of your truck as you descend an incline.



**Parking Lamps Indicator:** When you turn on the parking lamps, you'll see an indicator light up that shows two lamps facing away from each other.

**Sport Mode Indicator:** This one's easy to spot: It illuminates as a big "S" when Sport Mode is engaged.

**Tow Haul Indicator:** This lamp simply lights up the words "TOW" and "HAUL" when you switch on the system.

## Now You Know Your F-150 Dashboard Lights: Schedule Service if You Need It!

Not every 2020 Ford F-150 dashboard light requires service, but if you see those warning lights glowing in red, it's worth having your vehicle checked out by a trained technician. You can schedule service at your local Ford dealership and have your truck's systems checked out. Doing so will keep you safer on the roads and your F-150 running at its very best!



Andy Mohr 

AndyMohrFord.com  
317-342-0833