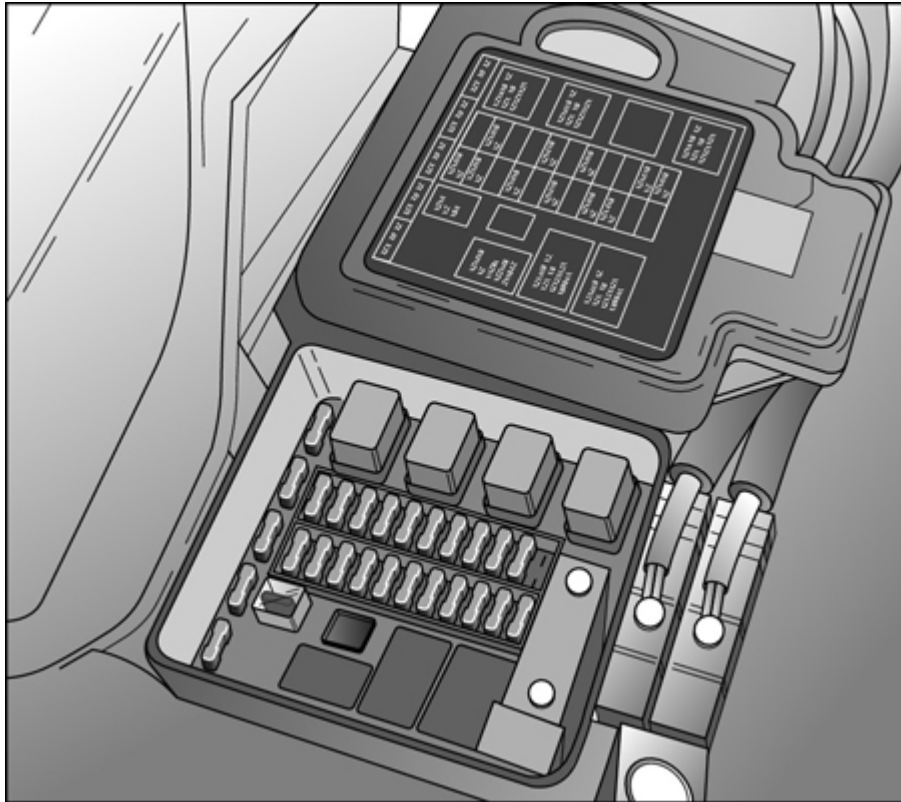


How to Change a Vehicle's Fuses

By [Deanna Sclar](#) from [Auto Repair For Dummies, 2nd Edition](#)

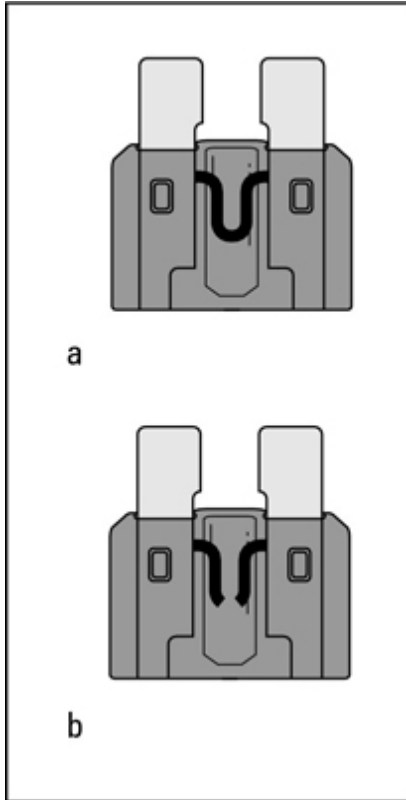
If your stereo goes dead, your turn signals don't blink, a light goes out, or some other gadget stops working, it's often just the result of a blown [fuse](#). You can change fuses yourself, easily and with very little expense.

Many vehicles have two fuse boxes: one under the hood as shown here:



A fuse box located under the hood.

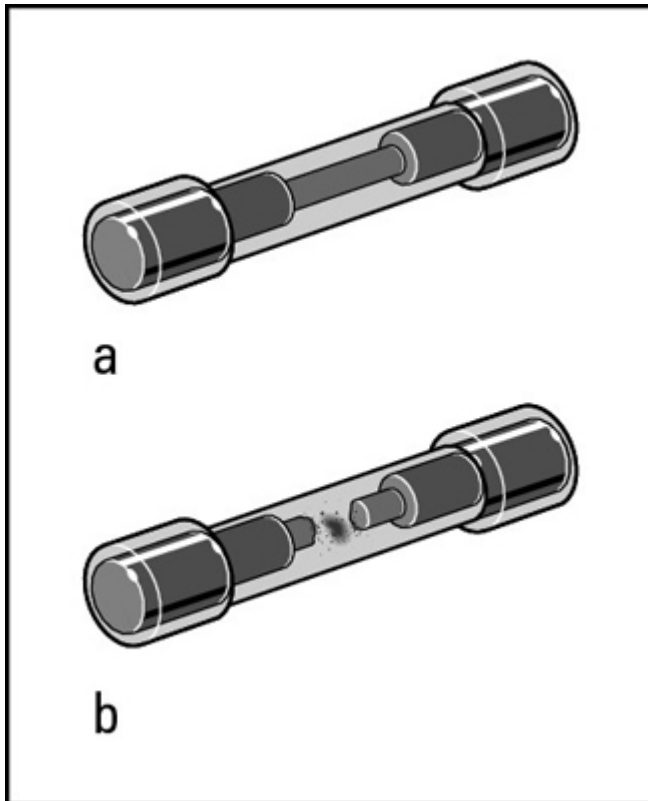
The other is under the dash.



A good blade-type fuse (a) and a blown one (b).

If you can't just yank a fuse out, you need a plug puller. If you're lucky, your automaker has provided one right in the fuse box. If not, try a pair of tweezers.

If you encounter tubular glass fuses, look for one that's black inside or no longer has its filaments intact. To remove this blown fuse, *gently* pry it out with your fingers, a very small standard screwdriver, a small set of pliers, or, as a last resort, a bent paper clip.



A good tubular fuse (a) and a burned-out fuse (b).

To avoid breaking the fuse, try prying up one of the end caps first. If that doesn't work, gently pry it up from one end of the center area. Inspect the fuse to be sure it's burned out, and then *gently* press a new fuse into place.

After you've replaced all the burned-out fuses, test the part that malfunctioned to see if it's operating properly again. If it still doesn't work, have it professionally repaired or replaced.