

Troubleshooting Checklist

The chart below shows the most common questions asked by owners of Detroit Diesel engines 3-53 natural when trying to troubleshoot why their engines underperform. It categorizes areas of possible malfunction, likely cause and recommended action to bring your new, rebuilt or used Detroit Diesel engine back to proper operation.

The chart will give you confidence when speaking with your Detroit Diesel engine mechanic or ordering parts. As a quick reference guide only, the chart must not be thought of as a substitute for the use of your Detroit Diesel engine 3-53 natural Owner's operating or service manual.

For your convenience in looking up parts and pricing, please click on the following link www.dieselpower.com/detroit-diesel-engine-part-3-53-natural. You can also call us at 1-888-433-4735 or 305-545-5588.

We also encourage you to do a Google search for Detroit Diesel forum or Detroit Diesel forum 3-53 where you may find information from other people that have had the same question you have about your diesel engine.

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE REASON	CHECK
Engine will not start	Lack of air intake or restricted air intake.	
	Broken blower shaft	
	Worn out blower shaft	
	Defective fuel pump	
	Defective starter	
	Discharged battery	
	High exhaust back pressure	
Black smoke coming out of engine	Defective injector	
	Contaminated fuel	
	Broken or worn cylinder parts	
	Engine overloaded	
	Faulty intercooler or aftercooler (for turbo engines only)	
White smoke coming out of engine	Aro del piston roto	
	Incorrectly installed ring set	
	Defective injector	
	Fuel quality or grade	
	Long idle periods	
	Broken or bent push rod	
	Injector or governor improperly adjusted	
Low engine oil pressure	Water in engine oil pan	
	Fuel in engine oil pan	
	Defective oil cooler	
	Engine overloaded	
	Crankcase overfilled	
Low engine RPM	Improperly working injector	
	Governor calibration	
Hi engine RPM	Governor calibration	
Engine overheating	Defective fresh water pump	
	Defective raw water pump (marine engines only)	
	Defective thermostat or thermostat seal	
	Clogged radiator or heat exchanger (marine engine only)	
Grey smoke coming out of engine	Long idle periods	
	Defective intercooler or aftercooler (for turbo engine only)	
	Restricted air intake	
	Defective injector	
	Contaminated fuel	
Geartrain makes noises	Blower or turbocharger seals leaking	
	Low oil level	
	Engine driven accessories	
Excessive smoke on acceleration	Damage main or rod bearing	
	Long idle periods	
	Contaminated fuel	
Excessive smoke on acceleration	External oil leaks	