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How to fix gas burner that won't light

You're all set to cook, maybe you have even already chopped some onion, and just as you're setting down your skillet, you turn on the gas burner and...nothing. It won't light! This frustrating situation is one of the most common problems that go with owning a gas range. While there are many advantages to gas ranges such as instant heat and the ability to cook even when there's a blackout, the disadvantage is that you must be able to light the range first. At a pinch, you can always opt for using a match to light your range, but in the long-run, you'll want to sort out the problem. Here are some easy ways to find the source of the problem: Clogged and Dirty. Believe it or not, quite frequently the reason your stove won't light is due to faulty electrodes or a dirty burner cap. This makes for an easy fix. Ensure that all burners are turned off and cool. Then, simply remove the burner heads and caps from all burners, clean them out using a mild detergent and water. Then, use a soft brush to clean out the small holes in the burner head. Either dry all items with a towel or allow them to air dry. In order for this fix to work, everything needs to be completely dry when you put it all back together. Then, carefully place all of the pieces back together and try lighting your stove again. Electrode Issue. Unfortunately, sometimes the issue is more complicated and may come down to a wiring issue or a faulty electrode. What are electrodes? They are the small white nubs that provide the spark to light your burners. You can find them by removing all burner caps and heads. Make sure your stove is cool and you've unplugged it before doing this. Observe all of the electrodes, notice if any seem to have been bumped out of position or if any wires are sticking out. If the electrode isn't sitting evenly, aligned with the cooktop, try adjusting it very gently. If there are no problems there, remove the sealed cap to see if there are any loose wires. You can try reconnecting on your own, or if you're not very handy with electrical, it may be best to call in the professionals. Sometimes, electrodes may simply wear out and not perform up to par any longer. Do a quick test, plug in your range again and turn out the lights, then try igniting the burner. Observe the electrode to see what color spark it's producing, if it's not a bluish-white color, you may need to replace the electrode or igniter. While you could try to do it yourself, you may prefer an experienced professional to take on this job. Wrong Position. Sometimes, after cleaning the burners, the caps and heads may get placed incorrectly, double check to ensure that they are all in the correct position and that you're not covering your igniter completely. When all of these troubleshooting tricks fail, you'll need the help of a professional. Often, a stove that won't light is an easy problem to fix, but sometimes it goes beyond what the average do it DIY enthusiast can handle. Need a quality appliance repair service? Call the experts at West Coast Chief Repair at 323.782.3922. We'll have your stove working in no time! CCO/Pixabay/Pexels When the temperature dips, there's nothing like the comfort and warmth that a gas heater provides. Yet, anyone who has spent any time shopping for one understands that not all heaters are created equally. You want a heater that's designed to fit your needs, look great in your space and work within your lifestyle. This isn't an investment to rush into. Before you shell out your money and install one in your home, read this guide to make sure you're getting the best gas heater for your needs.Know If You Need a Gas HeaterYou might think that a gas heater could work well in your space, but is the heater made for it? As you research your options, you'll soon realize that gas heaters are categorized by their heating capacities. This is true for older models, secondhand gas heaters and those you buy new. While this has much to do with the size of a room they're designed to warm, the rating also measures how quickly they emit heat. Some gas heaters, most notably portable and unflued ones, don't work in a particularly small space. The reason? They produce emissions that could be harmful if there isn't enough air circulating in the area. If it's quick heating you're looking for, you'll need as large of a model as possible, but you need to make sure the space is large enough to disperse any off gassing. Take an inventory of your space and determine if a gas heater is ideal for it. If so, you're ready to compare specifics.Naturally, you want to get the biggest gas heater for your money, right? Not so fast. It's easy to spend a fortune on an oversized one, thinking it'll pump out hot air like a champ and work like a powerhorse. But don't forget the fact that it can also be a costly and unnecessary expense. Conversely, the opposite also holds true. In an effort to save a few bucks, you could opt for a model that's far too small for your needs. Peruse gas heater reviews and other resources to understand the kWh heat output rating of each model you're considering. As a rule of thumb, one kWh will heat a space of around 10 square meters. You'll also need to take into consideration the climate where you live, how tall your ceilings are, your home's current level of insulation and how much direct sunlight the area gets in order to understand what size of gas heater you require.Choosing Between Flued or PortableThere are two main types of gas heaters you'll select between when choosing yours. One is a flued gas heater, and the other is a portable model. The former works via the installation of a flue that runs from your gas heater to the outdoors, allowing exhaust gas to travel outside of your home. While it can be an effective solution, it also requires construction, meaning that it's not ideal if you're renting or are in a space temporarily. As an alternative, you can go with a portable gas heater that's unflued. As implied, one benefit of this type is that you can move it from room to room, store it away when it's not in use and bring it with you when you move. Portable heaters also produce quicker, more direct heat than their flued counterparts. Moreover, though they may cost you more at the onset, they're cost-effective to run and can save you money on gas heater maintenance in the long-term. On the other hand, a flued gas heater is more efficient at removing harmful emissions. You can also use this type in spaces where portable models can't usually work, including bedrooms and bathrooms.What to Look For in a Portable HeaterWhether you ultimately go with a flued option or a portable one is determined by your usage requirements. There are specific elements you should look for in each model. With a portable gas heater, look for one that operates via convection. These include a fan to speed up the movement of hot air and often come equipped with a remote control to help you regulate the temperature. The alternative is a radiant-convection model, which works in a similar manner but uses an exposed panel to emit heat in a room. These can be cheaper to buy but often don't have automated add-ons, such as thermostats. What to Look For in a Flued HeaterIf you're shopping for a flued gas heater, look for one that comes equipped with a thermostat, remote control, programmable timer and electronic ignition. These are often integrated with smart home apps to make them as effective and usable as possible. Depending on the model you select, you can expect to spend between \$400 and \$2,500 on your new gas heater. Take the time to research your options, understand your space limitations and engage the assistance of professional gas heater installation services as you move forward. Then, you'll be able to comfortably and confidently relax in your newly warm space. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET You probably use your cooktop almost every day, and as a result it can become one of the dirtiest appliances in your home. Food debris and grease can collect across your cooktop and within your burners, blocking gas flow to the igniter and preventing the cooktop from lighting. If your cooktop will not ignite, you should first examine the appliance and clean any food or grease buildup from faulty burners. To effectively clean a burner that won't light, you should remove its grate and burner cap, and then lift off the cooktop's sealed burner base. Depending on the cooktop, you may need to remove some screws before lifting off the burner base. Once each component is removed, clean the area surrounding the burner with a warm, soapy washcloth. You should also soak the burner base in warm water or vinegar, using a brush to remove any food debris from the base. Before reinstalling the grill, burner cap, and base, you should clean out any food from the burner holes. These holes are located where the flame ignites, and can be easily blocked by food particles. If cleaning the cooktop does not solve your problem, there may be an issue with the cooktop's connections or igniter. Examine Cooktop For Loose Connections Cooktops are not as complex as many other home appliances, but they still utilize a number of electrical connections in order to operate. Connections between the igniter and the control module can come loose during installation or cleaning, and result in a cooktop that won't spark to ignite the burner. To troubleshoot this issue, you should first kill power to the cooktop by either flipping the kitchen's breaker switch or unplugging your unit from the wall. Next, remove the grate, burner cap, and sealed burner base from the faulty burner. With these parts removed, you can inspect the area around the burner for disconnected or loose wires. Secure and reconnect any troublesome wires, reinstall the removed parts, and restore power to the stove in order to test the connections. Replacing and securing loose wires is a challenge for many homeowners. If you suspect your cooktop problems are the result of loose connections, consider enlisting assistance from a factory-certified appliance repair service. Inspect Cooktop Igniter If your gas cooktop is clean and features strong wire connections, there may be a problem with its igniter. While old gas cooktops and cooking ranges feature a constantly burning pilot light, modern models feature an electric igniter which creates a spark to light gas for the burner. Before inspecting your igniter, you can test it to see if it needs to be replaced. An easy way to do this is to switch all the lights off in your kitchen and turn the cooktop's control knob to the ignite position. If the igniter sparks an orange or yellow color, instead of a bright bluish-white, you should probably replace the igniter. If you need to invest in a new igniter, you can use your cooktop's model number to find the replacement you need. To replace the igniter, you should cut the gas and power to the stove and remove the burner cap and base. Once removed, disconnect wires coming from the faulty igniter and replace it with your new igniter. After replacing the igniter, be sure to test the burner to ensure your replacement works. For assistance with replacing a gas cooktop's igniter, be sure to contact a professional appliance repair expert. Other Potential Causes Excess food debris, loose wire connections, or a faulty igniter are common causes of a gas cooktop that will not light. But these are not the only factors linked to this problem. A malfunctioning igniter switch or igniter control module can prevent your cooktop from lighting. Kinks in your unit's gas supply line may also hinder your gas cooktop's functionality, resulting in burners that will not light. It is difficult for many homeowners to identify and resolve such specific issues with a cooktop's components, and it's smart to reach out to a professional appliance repair technician for repairs. Problems with a cooktop may also result from the age of the appliance. A standard gas cooktop or cooking range has a lifespan of around 15 years. If you've had your cooktop for a long time, you may want to consider investing in a new one. You can use this online collection of gas cooktops to discover some of today's best models. Exceptional Factory-Certified Gas Cooktop Repair Service A gas cooktop that will not ignite is utterly useless, and requires effective and efficient repairs. If you understand some of the most common causes of a cooktop that will not light, you will be better prepared to troubleshoot this issue should it arise. While some common causes of this issue can be solved on your own, when faced with more complex problems, you should consider hiring an experienced appliance repair company to tackle the job. For assistance with all your gas cooktop or cooking range repair problems, be sure to contact a professional appliance repair service. Page 2 You probably use your cooktop almost every day, and as a result it can become one of the dirtiest appliances in your home. 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