

I'm not a robot



























A dryer that isn't heating can be frustrating, especially when you expect warm air to dry your clothes efficiently. Fortunately, there are a few common reasons behind this issue, and many of them are straightforward to troubleshoot without calling a technician. 1. Incorrect Settings: Double-check your dryer's controls. Some settings, like "Air Dry" or "Delicate," are designed to skip the heating element to protect fabrics. Ensure you've selected the correct cycle for the load. 2. Power Supply Issues: Electric dryers require a steady 240-volt power supply to operate the heating element. A tripped circuit breaker or blown fuse could result in insufficient power, leaving the dryer unable to heat. 3. Lint Blockages: Lint buildup in the dryer or its venting system can restrict airflow, which might cause overheating. Overheating can, in turn, trigger the thermal fuse to blow or create other operational problems. 4. Blown Thermal Fuse: This safety feature cuts power to the heating circuit in electric dryers or the motor circuit in gas dryers if the appliance overheats. A blown thermal fuse will prevent the dryer from heating. 5. Malfunctioning Thermostat: The thermostat regulates the dryer's temperature. If it's not working properly, the dryer may fail to reach or maintain the desired heat level. 6. Heating Element Issues (Electric Models): The heating element may be damaged or burned out. When this happens, it won't generate the heat needed for drying. 7. Igniter Problems (Gas Models): A faulty igniter may not glow, or it may not be strong enough to ignite the gas. This prevents the dryer from producing heat. 8. Defective Gas Valve Solenoids (Gas Models): These solenoids control the flow of gas to the burner. If they fail, the gas won't ignite, and the dryer will stay cool. 9. Gas Supply Problems (Gas Models): Issues like a disconnected, kinked, or damaged gas line, or even a gas leak, can disrupt the dryer's ability to heat. 10. Faulty Flame Sensor (Gas Models): The flame sensor ensures that the burner ignites properly. If it's dirty or malfunctioning, it may shut off the gas prematurely, preventing heat production. Before attempting any maintenance or repairs, it's crucial to prioritize safety. Follow these precautions to minimize risks: Disconnect Power: Unplug the dryer or turn off the circuit breaker before working on the appliance. This eliminates the risk of electric shock. Cool Down First: Allow the dryer to cool completely if it has recently been used. Shut Off the Gas Supply: For gas dryers, ensure the gas line is closed to prevent leaks. Work Slowly and Carefully: Take your time to avoid injuries or accidental damage. Maintain a Clean Workspace: Keep your work area free from clutter, and ensure it's well-lit. Keep Others Away: Make sure children and pets are not in the work area. Dry Hands Only: Never handle electrical components with wet hands. Check Your User Manual: Refer to the appliance's manual for specific troubleshooting or replacement instructions. Document Connections: Take photos or make notes of wiring connections before disassembling anything. This will make reassembly easier. Handle Parts Gently: Avoid using excessive force to prevent damage or injury. Wear Protective Gear: Use insulated gloves to shield your hands from sharp edges and debris. Avoid Live Voltage Testing: If you need to check electrical components, use a multimeter only if you're confident in your ability to prevent short circuits. Read more: Installing a Vented Tumble Dryer: Components and Settings Ensure the dryer is not set to "air dry" or another non-heating mode. Adjust the settings and restart the cycle. Confirm the dryer is plugged into the 240-volt outlet. Inspect the plug and cord for damage (kinks, fraying, or burn marks). Check the electrical panel for tripped breakers; reset if needed. Remove the back panel and inspect the terminal block for damage. Test the voltage using a multimeter: L1 to L2: Look for 240V. L1 to Neutral or L2 to Neutral: Look for 120V each. Contact an electrician if voltage readings are incorrect. Remove the lint filter and clean it thoroughly with a soft brush or water. Shine a flashlight into the lint trap housing and vacuum any debris. Reinsert the clean, dry filter. Disconnect the vent hose and inspect it for blockages or kinks. Clean the vent and hose using a vacuum or vent brush. Inspect the external vent for obstructions and remove debris. Reconnect the hose and run a test cycle to confirm airflow. Disconnect the dryer from power. Locate the thermal fuse, typically on the back panel or blower housing. Remove the wires from the fuse terminals. Test the fuse with a multimeter: A reading near 0 indicates the fuse is functional. Replace the fuse if the reading is infinite ("OL"). Disconnect the dryer from power. Remove the back or front panel to access the heating element. Inspect the element for visible damage like breaks or burn marks. Test the heating element with a multimeter: A resistance reading of 10 to 50 Ohms indicates functionality. Replace the element if the reading is 0 or infinite. Disconnect the dryer from power. Locate the cycling thermostat and detach its wires. Test the bias-prong terminals for resistance according to manufacturer specifications. Check continuity on the thermostat terminals: Replace the thermostat if it shows no continuity or incorrect resistance. Unplug the dryer and locate the solenoids on the burner assembly. Disconnect the wires and test resistance: Two-prong coil: 1,000-1,300 Ohms. Three-prong coil: 1,000-1,300 Ohms (prongs 1 & 2) and 500-600 Ohms (prongs 1 & 3). Replace solenoids if readings are incorrect. Ensure the gas supply is on and the line is clear. Inspect the igniter for visible damage like cracks or discoloration. Test the igniter with a multimeter for 120V AC during a heating cycle. Observe if the igniter glows. Replace it if it doesn't function correctly. Unplug the dryer and locate the flame sensor near the burner assembly. Disconnect the wires and test for continuity with a multimeter. A beeping sound indicates functionality. Replace the flame sensor if it lacks continuity. Regular maintenance can help prevent heating issues and extend your dryer's lifespan. Here are some tips to keep it in optimal condition: Clean the Lint Trap After Every Load: A clogged lint trap can restrict airflow and lead to overheating, which may damage the dryer's components. Inspect and Clean the Vent System: Every few months, check the dryer vent hose and exterior vent cap for lint buildup. Use a vacuum or dryer vent cleaning kit to remove obstructions. Avoid Overloading the Dryer: Overloading can strain the motor and heating system, leading to uneven drying and potential malfunctions. Use the Right Dryer Settings: Match the cycle to your laundry load. Avoid using high heat unnecessarily, as it can wear out the heating element over time. Schedule Annual Professional Maintenance: A professional technician can perform a comprehensive check of your dryer to identify and address potential issues before they become significant problems. Read more: Seven Steps to Master Your Laundry Day: A Complete Guide Your dryer isn't heating, you don't need to panic—or immediately call for help. With a little know-how, many common issues can be identified and resolved right at home. From checking simple settings to inspecting parts like thermal fuses or heating elements, a bit of troubleshooting can save time and money. Of course, safety comes first. Always unplug the dryer and follow precautions before diving into repairs. And if you hit a snag or feel unsure, reaching out to a qualified technician is always a smart move. Remember, a little care and attention can help keep your dryer reliable for years to come. Why let your laundry pile up when the fix might be just a quick check away? What we expect when we think of dryer problems is a dryer that doesn't function at all. In some ways, that problem may seem easier to diagnose. However, if your dryer functions perfectly fine, but doesn't produce any heat, it may be a pretty frustrating issue. However, these symptoms are actually quite beneficial as they can help you more quickly pinpoint the problem rather than just having to guess why the whole appliance stopped working. If your dryer drum is spinning, it means the responsible for keeping an even temperature inside your dryer. If you had a blown thermal fuse and you're investigating as to why these two parts should be looked into. While faults in either of these parts can result in no heat in your dryer, it is more likely they will result in the heat not being shut off during the dryer cycle. This means that your clothing will get too hot and it will ultimately trip the thermal fuse. If your dryer also has a high limit thermostat, if the temperature gets too hot, this part will also disrupt electricity flow to the dryer's heating element as well to keep from starting a fire. Both the thermostat and the temperature switch can be tested with a multimeter. If the thermostat is not working properly, you should get a zero reading. However, for the temperature switch, it will either read zero or infinity. If it is working properly, once you turn the switch the reading should change to either zero or infinity, opposite your initial reading. If it does not switch, then it is the thermal part. While replacing a temperature switch is as easy as removing it and connecting the new one, replacing a bad thermostat is a little more involved. There are more wires to disconnect and it is crucial to remember to replace the in the right order. On some models, you may also need to pull the thermostat out in order to replace it. If your thermal fuse was fine and the thermometer checked out, it is likely that the cause of no heat to your otherwise working dryer is due to faulty heating coils. After removing the back panel of your dryer, you can find the heating coil by looking for metal wires coiled together. You will have access to the terminals after removing the lead in which you can test with a multimeter. If you get a reading of zero, then the coil needs to be replaced. A faulty timer(on mechanical-based models) seems like it would have little to do with your dryer not producing heat. However, what happens when the timer goes bad is that it won't advance the cycle. In some dryers, this can keep the heat running until it becomes too hot, and in others, it can mean that no heat is released at all. Instead, your dryer just spins and spins waiting for the signal to move to the next cycle that will never happen. To check if the timer is faulty, remove the knob and open the panel. Once the leads are disconnected from the motor, you can check for continuity. If your multimeter reads infinity, then the timer motor is faulty and needs to be replaced. The most common cause for a dryer not heating during a cycle is if Eco Mode or Wrinkle Protect is on. If that's not the case, the other common causes are a clogged dryer vent or filter, bad or low power from the outlet, or little to no gas for gas dryers. Eco Dry spins some cycles without heat. This feature is designed to save energy, but if you open the dryer door and find that it's cooler than you expected, it might be a bit surprising. Additionally, since Eco Dry is activated on many new dryers, you may not realize it is turned on and could mistakenly think your dryer is not functioning properly. To see if Eco Dry is causing your dryer not to heat, start a drying cycle and look for a light on the "Eco Dry" button. If Eco Dry is on, press the button to turn it off. On most newer Eco Dry-enabled Samsung Dryers, you will need to turn off Eco Dry manually every time if you don't want any heat-free dry cycles.[1] Just be aware that this will use more energy. Similarly, Wrinkle Prevent mode adds a heat-free cycle to minimize wrinkles.[2] If you notice that your dryer continues tumbling without heat at the end of your drying cycle, it's likely because Wrinkle Protect is enabled. Advertisement Most modern dryers stop heating if the airflow is restricted to prevent fires. This safety feature might be awesome, but finding a load of wet clothes after drying them for an hour is definitely a hassle that no one wants to deal with. To see if your vent is clogged, turn on the dryer to what should be a heated cycle. Go outside your house and locate the dryer vent (it's just a hole in the wall) and feel the exiting air from your dryer. A weak, hot-not airflow indicates that the vent may be clogged. Follow our vent-cleaning guide to resolve the problem or contact a professional. Check that the outlet is working and wasn't tripped. Your dryer requires a 240V outlet to heat the drum. If the circuit breaker was tripped earlier, your dryer may not be getting the 240V it needs and spin without heat. If you're unsure, it's best to call an electrician to test the voltage and make sure your outlet is powerful enough for your dryer. You also want to reset any tripped circuits. Advertisement Check if the gas line is functioning. Make sure the gas line is properly connected and that the gas is turned on. If the gas switch is horizontal, the gas is off—rotate it to the vertical position to turn it on. For good measure, check other gas elements in your home, such as your heating system and stove, or check your meter to see if you can use gas. If your home gas supply isn't working, the problem isn't your dryer, but your main gas line. A clogged lint filter (lint trap) can prevent your dryer from heating. If the dryer is spinning but not heating, whether there's a little bit of heat or no heat at all, cleaning lint from the filter will often fix the problem. To clean the lint filter, open the dryer door, lift the filter from the front of the dryer drum, and use your hands to remove the lint and fuzz. You can also use a pipe cleaner or a vacuum to clean excess lint out of the vent from which you pulled out the filter. If the filter screen is still dirty, clean it with water by holding the filter under your sink faucet and rubbing the dirt away. Let the filter dry completely before placing it back into your dryer.[3] Remember to clean the lint tray before or after every load. Advertisement Dryers need a little bit of space inside the drum to circulate hot air. If the drum is completely full, the clothes inside can't move and the hot air cannot circulate to dry clothes properly. To solve this issue, take out any dry items and aim to fill the dryer only ¾ of the way. The dryer won't heat if the thermal fuse or thermostat is burnt out. Most newer dryers won't even spin if the thermal fuse is the problem, but for older non-digital models, a dead thermal fuse could cause your dryer to spin without heat. If you're comfortable disassembling your dryer and using a multimeter, you can usually diagnose the problem by performing a continuity test and replace the fuse yourself. First, check your dryer's manual to learn the location of the thermal cutoff fuse and high-limit thermostat. Before opening your dryer, unplug it from the wall. If it's a gas dryer, disconnect the gas as well. Remove the thermal fuse and thermostat from your dryer. Set your multimeter to Continuity mode. Place the probes on both of the fuse's terminals at the same time. If you hear a beep, the thermal fuse works, and you can check the thermostat. If there is no beep, you should replace the fuse and the thermostat. Perform the same test on the thermostat. If the thermostat is dead, replace both the thermostat and the thermal fuse. Advertisement If the heating element fails, the dryer will stop heating. The heating element in your dryer may stop working after you've had the dryer for a long time, especially if you haven't done regular maintenance to keep the ventilation clear. If you feel comfortable disassembling your dryer, you can use a multimeter to check the heating element for continuity. If the heating element has burned out, you can purchase a replacement heating element from an authorized reseller. Unplug the dryer, and disconnect the gas if you have a gas dryer. Check your dryer manual for the location of the heating element. It's usually just below or beside the drum.[4] Remove the heating element assembly, a silver box surrounding the heating element itself. Don't remove the heating element from its metal assembly, as you can check for continuity without opening the box. With your multimeter in Continuity mode, place the probes onto each of the heating element's terminals. If you hear a beep, the heating element has continuity. If not, it needs to be replaced. To check for shorts, put one probe on one of the terminals, and the other on the metal housing. Then, repeat for the second terminal. If there is continuity between either of the terminals and the metal housing, the heating element has shorted and needs to be replaced. EXPERT TIP Homer Flores Appliance Repair Specialist Homer Flores is an Appliance Repair Specialist and Training Manager at PreFix, a home maintenance company out of Austin, Texas. With over 15 years of experience, Homer specializes in home improvement, remodeling, and construction. Homer's dedication to the PreFix mission of providing hassle-free one-stop-shop service for home care, in addition to their completion of the Capital Factory and Techstars Accelerators, has contributed to their growth of service to over 50 zip codes throughout the greater Austin area. With a multimeter, set the meter to measure continuity and test both leads on the heating element. If no continuity is present, then replace the part. The error code on your dryer can tell you why it isn't heating. On some dryers that don't have digital displays, you'll see flashing light patterns instead of error codes. Look for any of these common error codes or blink patterns that might pop up if your dryer is spinning but not heating. Advertisement Common Samsung Dryer Error Codes 9C1, 9E, 2E, 9E1, FC, FE, 1 FC If you see one of these errors, the dryer is not getting enough power. Make sure the dryer is plugged directly into a 240V outlet and not an extension cord. IS, IS, IC, IO, IE, IE3, IC5, IC5, 1 IC, IC5, 1C5 These errors are all temperature errors. These dryer error codes often indicate that the lint filter or exhaust vent is clogged. HC, HC4, 1 HC While you'll usually only see these codes when the dryer gets too hot, some may pop up if the dryer can't get hot enough due to a lack of power.[5] HC2 If your dryer uses gas to heat, this error will appear if the gas ignition is not working. Sometimes turning off the dryer for 3 minutes and turning it back on will resolve the problem. oD or hE You'll see these codes if the internal heat sensor is faulty. Contact a licensed repair professional if you see one of these errors. "Extra Low" and "20 min" lights are blinking These lights indicate a power source frequency error, which you may be able to resolve by stopping and restarting the cycle. If that doesn't work, your dryer may not be getting enough power. "80 min" light is blinking The dryer may not be plugged into a 240V outlet or may be plugged into an extension cord. Common Whirlpool Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:23 The outlet thermostat failed. F:25 The inlet thermostat failed. F:28 Moisture sensor failure. Common LG Dryer Error Codes PP Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F0 Filter issues. D80 Broken thermostat. D90, D95 Exhaust duct clogged. Common Kenmore Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:01 Electronic control unit malfunction. F:20 Heater relay malfunction. F:29 Faulty moisture sensor. F:70, F:71 Inlet thermal sensor malfunction. Common Maytag Bravos Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:22, F:23 Exhaust thermostat failure. F:28, F:29 Moisture sensor failure. Ask a Question Advertisement Co-authored by: Appliance Repair Specialist This article was co-authored by Homer Flores and by wikiHow staff writer, Darlene Antonelli, MA. Homer Flores is an Appliance Repair Specialist and Training Manager at PreFix, a home maintenance company out of Austin, Texas. With over 15 years of experience, Homer specializes in home improvement, remodeling, and construction. Homer's dedication to the PreFix mission of providing hassle-free one-stop-shop service for home care, in addition to their completion of the Capital Factory and Techstars Accelerators, has contributed to their growth of service to over 50 zip codes throughout the greater Austin area. With a multimeter, set the meter to measure continuity and test both leads on the heating element. If no continuity is present, then replace the part. The error code on your dryer can tell you why it isn't heating. On some dryers that don't have digital displays, you'll see flashing light patterns instead of error codes. Look for any of these common error codes or blink patterns that might pop up if your dryer is spinning but not heating. Advertisement Common Samsung Dryer Error Codes 9C1, 9E, 2E, 9E1, FC, FE, 1 FC If you see one of these errors, the dryer is not getting enough power. Make sure the dryer is plugged directly into a 240V outlet and not an extension cord. 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"80 min" light is blinking The dryer may not be plugged into a 240V outlet or may be plugged into an extension cord. Common Whirlpool Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:23 The outlet thermostat failed. F:25 The inlet thermostat failed. F:28 Moisture sensor failure. Common LG Dryer Error Codes PP Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F0 Filter issues. D80 Broken thermostat. D90, D95 Exhaust duct clogged. Common Kenmore Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:01 Electronic control unit malfunction. F:20 Heater relay malfunction. F:29 Faulty moisture sensor. F:70, F:71 Inlet thermal sensor malfunction. Common Maytag Bravos Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:22, F:23 Exhaust thermostat failure. F:28, F:29 Moisture sensor failure. Ask a Question Advertisement Co-authored by: Appliance Repair Specialist This article was co-authored by Homer Flores and by wikiHow staff writer, Darlene Antonelli, MA. Homer Flores is an Appliance Repair Specialist and Training Manager at PreFix, a home maintenance company out of Austin, Texas. With over 15 years of experience, Homer specializes in home improvement, remodeling, and construction. Homer's dedication to the PreFix mission of providing hassle-free one-stop-shop service for home care, in addition to their completion of the Capital Factory and Techstars Accelerators, has contributed to their growth of service to over 50 zip codes throughout the greater Austin area. This article has been viewed 2,652 times. Co-authors: 3 Updated: December 25, 2024 Views: 2,652 Categories: Washing Machines and Dryers Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 2,652 times. Dealing with a dryer that's not heating up can be quite frustrating, especially when you need to get your laundry done. But don't worry, we're here to help! In this article, we'll be providing you with a comprehensive troubleshooting guide to help you diagnose and fix the problem. From checking the power supply to inspecting the thermostat, we'll walk you through the most common reasons why dryers heat up but don't dry clothes and provide you with practical solutions to get your dryer up and running again. So, grab a cup of coffee, and let's get started!Common reasons why Dyer not heating is faulty power supply, thermostat, heating element, thermal fuse, gas supply (for gas dryers), gas valve coils (for gas dryers), or igniter (for gas dryers).By troubleshooting these components, it is possible to identify and fix the issue without calling a professional or purchasing a new dryer.Step 1: Check the Power SupplyThe first thing to do is to check the power supply. Ensure that the dryer is plugged in and that the outlet is working correctly.If the outlet is not working, check the circuit breaker to see if it has been tripped.If it has, reset the circuit breaker. If the circuit breaker continues to trip, contact an electrician.Step 2: Check the ThermostatIf the power supply is not the issue, the next step is to check the thermostat. A faulty thermostat can cause the dryer not to heat up. Locate the thermostat and check to see if it is working correctly.The thermostat is usually found near the heating element. To test the thermostat, you will need a multimeter.Set the multimeter to the ohms setting and touch the probes to the thermostat terminals. If the multimeter does not show any reading, the thermostat needs to be replaced.Step 3: Check the Heating ElementThe heating element is responsible for producing heat in the dryer. If it is faulty, the dryer will not heat up. The heating element is usually located at the back of the dryer. To check if it is working correctly, unplug the dryer and remove the back panel. Locate the heating element and check it for any signs of damage, such as breaks or burns.If the heating element appears to be damaged, it needs to be replaced.Step 4: Check the Thermal FuseThe thermal fuse is a safety device that cuts off power to the dryer when it overheats. If the thermal fuse is faulty, the dryer will not heat up.The thermal fuse is usually located on the blower housing or near the heating element.To check the thermal fuse, unplug the dryer and use a multimeter to check for continuity.If the thermal fuse does not have continuity, it needs to be replaced.Connect with an Appliance Repair TechnicianClick here to use the chatbox to speak with one of our skilled techniciansNo in-home service calls. No appointments.Step 5: Check the Gas Supply (For Gas Dryers)If you have a gas dryer, the issue may be with the gas supply. Check to see if the gas supply is turned on and that the gas valve is fully open. If the gas supply is working correctly, the issue may be with the gas valve coils. If the gas valve coils are responsible for opening the gas valves to allow the gas to flow into the burner. If the gas valve coils are faulty, the dryer will not heat up. The gas valve coils are located near the gas valve.To test the gas valve coils, unplug the dryer and use a multimeter to check for continuity.If the gas valve coils do not have continuity, they need to be replaced.Step 6: Check the Igniter (For Gas Dryers)The igniter is responsible for igniting the gas in the burner.If the igniter is faulty, the gas will not ignite, and the dryer will not heat up. The igniter is located near the burner assembly.To check the igniter, unplug the dryer and use a multimeter to check for continuity.If the igniter does not have continuity, it needs to be replaced.Connect with an Appliance Repair TechnicianClick here to use the chatbox to speak with one of our skilled techniciansNo in-home service calls. No appointments.Final ThoughtsA dryer not heating up or drying properly? There are several possible causes for your dryer not drying properly. A lack of power, a problem with the size or wetness of the load, a problem with the heating element, or a blown thermal fuse are all possible causes of your dryer not heating properly.If you've gone through the troubleshooting steps above and your dryer still isn't heating up, a part malfunction could be the blame. Occasionally, one of the dryer's heating elements will fail while the other remains operational, leaving clothes only partially dried.Another common dryer problem is faulty moisture sensors. These sensors measure the moisture level in the dryer, extending the drying cycle if the clothes are still wet.If these sensors are faulty, they will not accurately measure moisture levels, and drying times may be prolonged.Related ArticlesReferencesImage by wahomestudio on Freepik A malfunctioning dryer can throw a wrench into your laundry routine, especially when it stops producing heat. If your dryer isn't heating up, don't panic. There are several potential causes—some simple to fix and others requiring a bit more effort. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore common reasons your dryer might not be heating and what steps you can take to resolve the issue. Understanding How a Dryer Heats Up Before diving into the problems, it helps to understand how a dryer generates heat. Most dryers use either electricity or gas to create heat. An electric dryer uses heating elements, while a gas dryer relies on a burner assembly with igniters. The heat dries your clothes as the drum tumbles them around. If any component in this process fails, your dryer may run without heating up. Common Reasons Why Your Dryer Isn't Heating 1. Tripped Circuit Breaker What Happens: Electric dryers typically require 240 volts to operate. This voltage is provided through two separate 120-volt breakers. If one of them trips, your dryer may run but not heat. Solution: Check your home's breaker panel. Reset any tripped breakers. Try running your dryer again. 2. Blown Thermal Fuse What Happens: A thermal fuse is a safety device designed to prevent the dryer from overheating. If the fuse blows, the dryer may not heat at all. Solution: Unplug the dryer. Locate the thermal fuse (usually near the exhaust vent inside the back panel). Test it with a multimeter. Replace it if there's no continuity. 3. Faulty Heating Element (Electric Dryers) What Happens: The heating element is the component that warms the air inside your dryer. If it's broken, the air will stay cold. Solution: Disconnect power. Remove the back panel. Inspect the heating element for breaks or burn marks. Test with a multimeter. Replace if necessary. 4. Defective Gas Valve Solenoids (Gas Dryers) What Happens: These solenoids control the flow of gas to the burner. If they fail, the gas won't ignite, and the dryer will stay cool. Solution: Check your dryer manual for the location of the heating element. It's usually just below or beside the drum. 5. Malfunctioning Thermostat What Happens: The thermostat regulates the dryer's temperature. If it's faulty, it may not signal the dryer to produce heat. Solution: Test the thermostat with a multimeter. Replace it if it's not functioning. 6. Broken Timer or Control Board What Happens: Modern dryers use control boards or mechanical timers to direct operations. If they malfunction, heating cycles may not initiate. Solution: Look for signs of burning or damage on the control board. Test the timer for continuity. Replace if found defective. 9. Door Switch Issues What Happens: If the door switch is faulty, the dryer may not run at all or may not heat. Solution: Test the switch with a multimeter. Replace if it's not registering correctly. How to Troubleshoot Your Dryer Step-by-Step Step 1: Check the Power Supply Ensure the dryer is plugged in securely. Verify the circuit breaker hasn't tripped. Step 2: Run a Diagnostic Test (If Applicable) Some newer dryers have built-in diagnostic tools. Refer to the user manual for instructions. Step 3: Test Heating Components Use a multimeter to test the thermal fuse, heating element, thermostats, and igniter. Replace any components that show no continuity. Step 4: Inspect the Vent System Clean the lint trap and vent duct. Make sure the exhaust vent isn't crushed or blocked. Step 5: Call a Professional (if needed) If you're not comfortable working with electrical components or gas systems, call an appliance repair technician. Preventive Measures to Keep Your Dryer Heating Properly Clean the Lint Filter Regularly A clogged lint filter reduces efficiency and can cause overheating. Clean the Vent System Every Few Months Prevent lint buildup that can block airflow and lead to overheating or fires. Don't Overload the Dryer Too many clothes can reduce air circulation, making it harder for your dryer to heat properly. Schedule Annual Maintenance Having a professional inspect your dryer annually can prevent many common problems. When It Might Be Time to Replace Your Dryer Age of the Appliance Most dryers last 10-13 years. If yours is older, replacement might be more cost-effective than repair. Cost of Repairs If repair costs approach or exceed 50% of the price of a new dryer, consider investing in a new unit. Frequency of Issues Constant breakdowns indicate the machine is nearing the end of its useful life. Final Thoughts A dryer that isn't heating can be a frustrating problem, but it doesn't always mean a costly repair. By understanding how your dryer works and methodically checking each potential issue, you can often diagnose and fix the problem yourself. Whether it's a simple circuit breaker reset or a part replacement, taking action early can save you time and money in the long run. If all else fails, don't hesitate to contact a qualified technician. With the right approach, your laundry routine will be back on track in no time. You've been doing your laundry and suddenly realize that your clothes are still wet after being in the dryer for more than an hour. You touch the clothes only to realize that the dryer isn't getting hot, leaving you with damp laundry. This can be frustrating, and you may even worry that you'll need to call a maintenance specialist to come and fix the problem. However, before you go down that road, there are a few things you could look out for to try to solve the problem. In this blog post, we'll discuss some common causes of a dryer not getting hot and possible solutions to help get your dryer back in working condition. The first thing to check is if the dryer is properly plugged in. You might be surprised to find out that sometimes the plug gets slightly dislodged, which could cut off the power supply. If the plug is properly in and the dryer still isn't turning on, check to see if the circuit breaker has tripped. Locate the circuit breaker switch and turn it off and on to be sure that it's indeed functional. If you have a gas dryer, check to see if the gas supply is turned on and ensure there are no leaks. Check for the smell of rotten eggs, which can signal a gas leak. You can also use a little soapy water along the connection hoses' valves. The mix will bubble if there is any gas leaking. If there is a gas leak, turn off the gas immediately and call a repair professional. If you have any concerns about a gas leak, call your local fire department. Another possible reason that your dryer is not getting hot airflow. The airflow is key to the drying process, and any blockages in the dryer's vent could be a problem. Clogged air vents can affect the efficiency of the dryer, which can affect its ability to effectively dry clothes. Not to mention being a fire hazard. Ensure you clean the vents regularly to allow for maximum airflow, preventing any clogs and dust buildup that could affect the dryer's functioning. Be sure to clean the air vent hose regularly as well. Cleaning the vents every six months can go a long way to keeping your dryer running smoothly. The lint filter is another essential component of the dryer system that should never be ignored. A clogged lint filter will significantly reduce a dryer's efficiency, leading to damp clothes even after hours in the machine. To prevent this, ensure you clean the filter after every cycle. A clean filter will allow the air to flow freely, heating up the drum and efficiently drying clothes, leaving them fresh and clean. If you've ruled out power problems and cleared the vents and filter, the thermostat is the next thing to check. The thermostat is responsible for regulating the heat in your dryer, ensuring that it's not too hot for your clothes. A dryer that isn't heating up to the required temperatures could be a sign that the thermostat has failed. In this case, you may need to have it replaced. You can check it yourself if you are not afraid of a little DIY and disassembly. First, unplug the dryer, turn off the gas (if you have a gas dryer), and pull it away from the wall. Next, disconnect the vents and gas connections. Next, use a screwdriver to remove the back panel of the dryer. Then, locate the thermostat. The thermostat is a small oval mechanism next to the vent system. You can detach the wires connected to the thermostat and test for continuity with a multimeter. If the thermostat has continuity, then it is working well, and you'll need to keep looking. Fortunately, the next likely culprit is right nearby. Another reason your dryer isn't getting hot is that the heating element may be faulty. The heating element is what provides heat to the drum to ensure efficient drying of your clothes. If it's faulty, it'll affect the machine's ability to heat up, leaving your clothes cold and still damp. You'll need to test the heating element with a multimeter to help identify the extent of the damage, and a faulty heating element usually needs to be replaced. This assumes your dryer has a heating element at all, as gas dryers will typically use an igniter. To access the heating element, follow the steps above to access the interior of the dryer. Locate the thermostat. It is the small oval-shaped mechanism next to the vents system. Remove the thermostat. Now, unscrew the little box the thermostat was attached to. That box is your heating element. Test the heating element for continuity. If it is faulty, it will need to be replaced. To replace the heating element, reattach the thermostat to the new element, and secure the element in place by screwing it back in. From there, you can reverse the steps above to put your dryer back together. Plug it in, and run a short test cycle to ensure the dryer is heating now. If it still is not, the problem may be deeper. The thermal fuse is a safety feature installed in your dryer that is designed to stop the machine from overheating due to a mechanical fault. If the thermal fuse has blown, it could be why your dryer isn't getting hot. To test for this, follow the instructions in the previous sections to access the interior of the dryer. Once you have completed this, locate the thermal fuse. To test the fuse for a break in continuity, use a multimeter. If it shows no continuity, then the fuse is blown and must be replaced. To replace the fuse, buy a new one from a hardware store that matches your dryer's specifications and install it in place of the old one. In summary, there could be various reasons your dryer isn't heating up. Power problems, thermostat malfunctions, clogged air vents, and a dirty lint filter all need to be checked. However, with some basic troubleshooting, you should be able to quickly identify the problem and, in some cases, fix it yourself. Remember, for more serious problems, it's always best to get a professional electrician or maintenance technician to take a look to keep you and your appliance safe. The most common cause for a dryer not heating during a cycle is if Eco Mode or Wrinkle Protect is on. If that's not the case, the other common causes are a clogged dryer vent or filter, bad or low power from the outlet, or little to no gas for gas dryers. Eco Dry spins some cycles without heat. This feature is designed to save energy, but if you open the dryer door and find that it's cooler than you expected, it might be a bit surprising. Additionally, since Eco Dry is activated on many new dryers, you may not realize it is turned on and could mistakenly think your dryer is not functioning properly. To see if Eco Dry is causing your dryer not to heat, start a drying cycle and look for a light on the "Eco Dry" button. If Eco Dry is on, press the button to turn it off. On most newer Eco Dry-enabled Samsung Dryers, you will need to turn off Eco Dry manually every time if you don't want any heat-free dry cycles.[1] Just be aware that this will use more energy. Similarly, Wrinkle Prevent mode adds a heat-free cycle to minimize wrinkles.[2] If you notice that your dryer continues tumbling without heat at the end of your drying cycle, it's likely because Wrinkle Protect is enabled. Advertisement Most modern dryers stop heating if the airflow is restricted to prevent fires. This safety feature might be awesome, but finding a load of wet clothes after drying them for an hour is definitely a hassle that no one wants to deal with. To see if your vent is clogged, turn on the dryer to what should be a heated cycle. Go outside your house and locate the dryer vent (it's just a hole in the wall) and feel the exiting air from your dryer. A weak, hot-not airflow indicates that the vent may be clogged. Follow our vent-cleaning guide to resolve the problem or contact a professional. Check that the outlet is working and wasn't tripped. Your dryer requires a 240V outlet to heat the drum. If the circuit breaker was tripped earlier, your dryer may not be getting the 240V it needs and spin without heat. If you're unsure, it's best to call an electrician to test the voltage and make sure your outlet is powerful enough for your dryer. You also want to reset any tripped circuits. Advertisement Check if the gas line is functioning. Make sure the gas line is properly connected and that the gas is turned on. If the gas switch is horizontal, the gas is off—rotate it to the vertical position to turn it on. For good measure, check other gas elements in your home, such as your heating system and stove, or check your meter to see if you can use gas. If your home gas supply isn't working, the problem isn't your dryer, but your main gas line. A clogged lint filter (lint trap) can prevent your dryer from heating. If the dryer is spinning but not heating, whether there's a little bit of heat or no heat at all, cleaning lint from the filter will often fix the problem. To clean the lint filter, open the dryer door, lift the filter from the front of the dryer drum, and use your hands to remove the lint and fuzz. You can also use a pipe cleaner or a vacuum to clean excess lint out of the vent from which you pulled out the filter. If the filter screen is still dirty, clean it with water by holding the filter under your sink faucet and rubbing the dirt away. Let the filter dry completely before placing it back into your dryer.[3] Remember to clean the lint tray before or after every load. Advertisement Dryers need a little bit of space inside the drum to circulate hot air. If the drum is completely full, the clothes inside can't move and the hot air cannot circulate to dry clothes properly. To solve this issue, take out any dry items and aim to fill the dryer only ¾ of the way. The dryer won't heat if the thermal fuse or thermostat is burnt out. Most newer dryers won't even spin if the thermal fuse is the problem, but for older non-digital models, a dead thermal fuse could cause your dryer to spin without heat. If you're comfortable disassembling your dryer and using a multimeter, you can usually diagnose the problem by performing a continuity test and replace the fuse yourself. First, check your dryer's manual to learn the location of the thermal cutoff fuse and high-limit thermostat. Before opening your dryer, unplug it from the wall. If it's a gas dryer, disconnect the gas as well. Remove the thermal fuse and thermostat from your dryer. Set your multimeter to Continuity mode. Place the probes on both of the fuse's terminals at the same time. If you hear a beep, the thermal fuse works, and you can check the thermostat. If there is no beep, you should replace the fuse and the thermostat. Perform the same test on the thermostat. If the thermostat is dead, replace both the thermostat and the thermal fuse. Advertisement If the heating element fails, the dryer will stop heating. The heating element in your dryer may stop working after you've had the dryer for a long time, especially if you haven't done regular maintenance to keep the ventilation clear. If you feel comfortable disassembling your dryer, you can use a multimeter to check the heating element for continuity. If the heating element has burned out, you can purchase a replacement heating element from an authorized reseller. Unplug the dryer, and disconnect the gas if you have a gas dryer. Check your dryer manual for the location of the heating element. It's usually just below or beside the drum.[4] Remove the heating element assembly, a silver box surrounding the heating element itself. Don't remove the heating element from its metal assembly, as you can check for continuity without opening the box. With your multimeter in Continuity mode, place the probes onto each of the heating element's terminals. If you hear a beep, the heating element has continuity. If not, it needs to be replaced. To check for shorts, put one probe on one of the terminals, and the other on the metal housing. Then, repeat for the second terminal. If there is continuity between either of the terminals and the metal housing, the heating element has shorted and needs to be replaced. EXPERT TIP Homer Flores Appliance Repair Specialist Homer Flores is an Appliance Repair Specialist and Training Manager at PreFix, a home maintenance company out of Austin, Texas. With over 15 years of experience, Homer specializes in home improvement, remodeling, and construction. Homer's dedication to the PreFix mission of providing hassle-free one-stop-shop service for home care, in addition to their completion of the Capital Factory and Techstars Accelerators, has contributed to their growth of service to over 50 zip codes throughout the greater Austin area. With a multimeter, set the meter to measure continuity and test both leads on the heating element. If no continuity is present, then replace the part. The error code on your dryer can tell you why it isn't heating. On some dryers that don't have digital displays, you'll see flashing light patterns instead of error codes. Look for any of these common error codes or blink patterns that might pop up if your dryer is spinning but not heating. Advertisement Common Samsung Dryer Error Codes 9C1, 9E, 2E, 9E1, FC, FE, 1 FC If you see one of these errors, the dryer is not getting enough power. Make sure the dryer is plugged directly into a 240V outlet and not an extension cord. IS, IS, IC, IO, IE, IE3, IC5, IC5, 1 IC, IC5, 1C5 These errors are all temperature errors. These dryer error codes often indicate that the lint filter or exhaust vent is clogged. HC, HC4, 1 HC While you'll usually only see these codes when the dryer gets too hot, some may pop up if the dryer can't get hot enough due to a lack of power.[5] HC2 If your dryer uses gas to heat, this error will appear if the gas ignition is not working. Sometimes turning off the dryer for 3 minutes and turning it back on will resolve the problem. oD or hE You'll see these codes if the internal heat sensor is faulty. Contact a licensed repair professional if you see one of these errors. "Extra Low" and "20 min" lights are blinking These lights indicate a power source frequency error, which you may be able to resolve by stopping and restarting the cycle. If that doesn't work, your dryer may not be getting enough power. "80 min" light is blinking The dryer may not be plugged into a 240V outlet or may be plugged into an extension cord. Common Whirlpool Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:23 The outlet thermostat failed. F:25 The inlet thermostat failed. F:28 Moisture sensor failure. Common LG Dryer Error Codes PP Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F0 Filter issues. D80 Broken thermostat. D90, D95 Exhaust duct clogged. Common Kenmore Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:01 Electronic control unit malfunction. F:20 Heater relay malfunction. F:29 Faulty moisture sensor. F:70, F:71 Inlet thermal sensor malfunction. Common Maytag Bravos Dryer Error Codes PF Power Failure. Make sure the dryer is getting enough power. F:22, F:23 Exhaust thermostat failure. F:28, F:29 Moisture sensor failure. Ask a Question Advertisement Co-authored by: Appliance Repair Specialist This article was co-authored by Homer Flores and by wikiHow staff writer, Darlene Antonelli, MA. Homer Flores is an Appliance Repair Specialist and Training Manager at PreFix, a home maintenance company out of Austin, Texas. With over 15 years of experience, Homer specializes in home improvement, remodeling, and construction. Homer's dedication to the PreFix mission of providing hassle-free one-stop-shop service for home care, in addition to their completion of the Capital Factory and Techstars Accelerators, has contributed to their growth of service to over 50 zip codes throughout the greater Austin area. This article has been viewed 2,652 times. Co-authors: 3 Updated: December 25, 2024 Views: 2,652 Categories: Washing Machines and Dryers Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 2,652 times.