I'm not a robot

April 1, 2022 Replacing a dryer heating element is thankfully a straightforward task. In this article, we will give you step-by-step instructions for how to do it so you can get your dryer working again. These steps should work for all major models of dryers, such as Maytag, Whirlpool, GE, Bosch, and Samsung. Simply start with step one, and work your way through each subsequent step. Start by turning the power off to your dryer. This can be done by switching it off at the wall or turning the circuit breaker off in your household circuit breaker box. Once the power is turned off, pull your dryer out from the wall so you can gain access to the back of the appliance. When pulling the dryer out, you will probably need to remove the exhaust hose from the appliance if you have one attached. Start by locating the back panel.Once located, remove the screws that hold it in place, and set them aside. The back panel should now clip out of position and be able to be removed. Once removed, place it safely out of the way.Locate the housing unit that protects the heating element. On the top of the unit should be a sensor. If you find a sensor, remove it by first disconnecting the wires and then the screw that holds it in place. Once removed, place it safely out of the way, as you'll need to reattach it after you've replaced the heating element.Once the sensor on the top has been removed, locate the sensor at the bottom of the unit, and remove it exactly how you removed the first one.After the two sensors have been safely removed and placed out of the way, locate the heating fuse on the left-hand side of the housing unit. The fuse can be removed by disconnecting it and removing the screws that secure it in place.If any screws are securing the housing unit in place, remove them, and you should be able to remove the housing and have access to the element. This step is optional and is only necessary if you have a multimeter so that you can test the sensors, fuse, and element to ensure they are all working correctly. If you don't have a multimeter, you can proceed directly to step four. Here's how to test the electrical components: Test the resistance of the fuse with your multimeter. If the fuse doesn't have continuity, it will need to be replaced. If it does have continuity, it can be reused with the new heating element.Test the resistance of the two sensors. If the sensors don't have continuity, they will need to be replaced. If they do have continuity, they can be reused with the new heating element.Test the resistance of the heating element to ensure it is faulty and needs to be replaced. If the element doesn't have continuity, this proves it's defective and needs to be replaced. If the element does have continuity, you will need to investigate the reason why your dryer has stopped working, as the heating element is not likely to be the cause. Now that the heating element housing, the sensors, and the heating fuse have been removed, you can take out the defective heating element. Here's how to do it: Remove the screw that holds the element in position. The screw is sometimes underneath the element, so you'll need to turn your dryer upside down to get your screwdriver into place.Disconnect the wires that are connected to the element.The element should now be able to be safely removed from your dryer. Now that the old heating element has been disconnected and removed from your dryer, the final step in our guide is to install the new element. Before you install the new element, double-check that you purchased the correct replaced part. Here's how to connect the new heating element: Carefully take the element out of the box.Place the element into the correct position inside your dryer.Secure it in place by attaching the screw.Attach the wire connectors.If your dryer is turned upside down, turn it back upright.Attach the heating fuse by connecting it up to the wires and then reattaching the screw you removed earlier.Attach both sensors by connecting them up to the wires and reattaching the screws you removed earlier.Reattach the heating element housing. If you removed any screws when taking the old element out, reattach them.Reattach the back panel onto your dryer, and secure it in place with the screws you removed earlier.Place your dryer back into position, and switch the power back on.Test if your dryer is working again. If not, you will need to get a technician to come and inspect the cause of it not working. If the dryer is working, congratulations, you've successfully replaced the heating element! A faulty heating element is one of the most common reasons a dryer stops producing heat. If your dryer runs but doesn't heat up, the heating element may need to be replaced. Check & replace a dryer blower if airflow issues persist, as this can also affect heating. This guide will walk you through the replacement process step by step.Check If the Heating Element Is the ProblemBefore you buy a new part and start disassembling your dryer, make sure the heating element is actually the issue. A dryer that runs but doesn't heat up can have multiple causes. Here's how to narrow it down.Symptoms of a Bad Heating ElementThe dryer runs, but there's no heat at all.Clothes take much longer to dry than usual.You spot obvious damage such as breaks, burns, or discoloration on the heating element.Other Components to Check FirstSeveral other parts can fail and mimic a bad heating element:Thermal Fuse – This safety device blows if the dryer overheats. If it's bad, your dryer won't heat at all. Use a multimeter to check for continuity.Thermostat – A faulty thermostat can cause inconsistent or no heat. Test it with a multimeter.Power Supply (for Electric Dryers) – Electric dryers need a full 240V supply. If one of the two power legs is out, the dryer will run but not heat. Check your circuit breaker or outlet voltage.Test the Heating ElementInstead of guessing, use a multimeter to see if the heating element is really dead.Unplug the dryer for safety.Locate the heating element's terminals (usually at the back or inside the dryer).Set your multimeter to ohms (Ω).Touch the probes to the element's terminals.A reading between 10–50 ohms means the element is functional.A reading of infinity (or no movement on the meter) means the element is bad.If the heating element fails this test, it's time for a replacement. If not, keep troubleshooting something else is causing the problem.Gather the Right Tools and PartsYou'll need a few basic tools and a replacement heating element.Tools RequiredGrab these before you start:Phillips and flathead screwdrivers – For removing panels and screws.Nut driver or socket wrench (typically 1/4-inch or 5/16-inch) – Used to detach the heating element.Multimeter – Essential for testing the old and new heating elements for continuity.Work gloves – Heating elements have sharp edges. Avoid cuts.Finding the Right Heating ElementNot all heating elements are the same. To avoid headaches, get the correct part for your dryer model.Find your model number – Check inside the door frame or on the back panel.Look up the part online – Search using the model number on the manufacturer's website or a parts retailer.OEM vs. aftermarket – OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) parts fit better and last longer, but aftermarket options can be cheaper. Decide based on your budget and preference.Having the right tools and part before you start will make the job quicker and smoother. Now, let's get to work.Disconnect Power and Prepare the Work AreaPrioritize SafetyYou're dealing with high-voltage electricity, so don't take shortcuts. Follow these steps to ensure a safe working environment:Cut Power to the DryerUnplug the dryer from the wall outlet.If it's hardwired, flip the breaker switch to cut power.Double-check with a voltage tester if you have one to confirm power is off.Create a Safe WorkspaceMove the dryer away from the wall to give yourself enough room to work.Most models require rear access, but some need front access—check your model beforehand.Ensure a stable, well-lit surface.If your laundry room is cramped, consider moving the dryer to a garage or another open area.Protect YourselfWear work gloves.Heating elements and nearby components often have sharp edges. A little caution now can prevent injuries later.Remove the Back or Front PanelHow you access the heating element depends on your dryer model.Back Panel Access (Common in Many Brands)Unplug the dryer. Never skip this step electric shock isn't fun.Move the dryer away from the wall to get working space.Use a nut driver or screwdriver to remove the screws securing the back panel.Once the panel is off, locate the heating element usually in a metal housing near the bottom.Front Panel Access (Some Models)Remove the lint trap. If screws are visible inside, take them out.If the top panel is secured with clips, insert a flathead screwdriver at the seam and pop it up.Identify and disconnect the door switch wiring you don't want to rip it by accident.Unscrew and remove the front panel, exposing the drum and internal components.Now, with the dryer open, you're ready to tackle the heating element.Locate and Remove the Heating ElementOnce you have access to the heating element, it's time to take it out.Identify the heating element. It's usually a metal frame with coiled wires, housed in a casing. If you're unsure, refer to your dryer's manual or look for a part that resembles the replacement element.Disconnect the wiring. There will be at least two electrical connectors attached to the heating element. Carefully pull them off using your fingers or needle-nose pliers. If the wires are held in place with screws, use a screwdriver to loosen them.Remove mounting screws or brackets. The heating element is typically secured with a few screws or clips. Use a nut driver or socket wrench (usually 1/4-inch or 5/16-inch) to remove them. Keep these screws handy you'll need them for the new element.Slide out the heating element. Gently wiggle or slide it out of its housing. If it feels stuck, check for additional fasteners. Avoid forcing it, as you don't want to damage nearby components.With the old element removed, you're ready to test it (if desired) and install the new one.Test the Old Heating Element (Optional)Before installing the new heating element, it's a good idea to test the old one to be sure it's actually the problem. This step only takes a minute and can save you from replacing a perfectly good part.Set Your MultimeterSwitch your multimeter to ohms (Ω) or continuity mode.If your multimeter has a continuity setting, use that for a simple yes/no test.If using the ohms setting, a reading between 10–50 ohms indicates a working element.Test the TerminalsLocate the heating element's two metal terminals where the wires connect.Touch the multimeter probes to these terminals.Ensure firm contact for an accurate reading.Interpret the Reading10–50 ohms → The element is good."OL" (open loop), "infinity," or no reading → The element is bad and must be replaced.Next StepsThis quick test confirms whether the heating element is faulty. If the element passes, check the thermal fuse and thermostats before replacing any parts.Install the New Heating ElementPosition the Heating ElementSlide the new heating element into place, ensuring it fits snugly in the housing.Secure the ElementUse the mounting screws or brackets to hold the element in place.Tighten them firmly, but avoid overtightening, which could cause damage.Reconnect the WiringReattach the wiring terminals exactly as they were before refer to a photo if you took one earlier.Most terminals are either push-on or secured with small screws.Perform a Safety CheckDouble-check all connections. Loose wires can cause malfunctions or even a fire hazard.If your element has a thermal fuse or thermostat attached, reattach them securely.Final InspectionBefore reassembling the dryer, do a quick once-over:No loose screws?Wires properly seated?Great! You're ready to move on.Reassemble the DryerNow that the new heating element is installed, it's time to put everything back together.Reattach the panel – If you removed the back panel, align it with the dryer frame and secure it with the screws you removed earlier. If your dryer required front access, reattach the front panel, ensuring it snaps into place properly.Reconnect any wiring – If you disconnected the door switch or other electrical connections, plug them back in exactly as they were. Double-check that all connections are snug.Secure the top panel (if applicable) – Some models require the top panel to be locked back in place before you're done.Tighten all screws – Give everything a final check to make sure all screws are tight and the panels are secure.Once the dryer is fully reassembled, slide it back into position. You're now ready to restore power and test the repair.Restore Power and Test the DryerNow that everything is back together, it's time to see if your work paid off.Plug the dryer back in or switch the breaker on if you turned it off earlier.Run a test cycle: Set the dryer to a standard heat setting and start it.Check for heat: Open the dryer after a couple of minutes if you feel warm air inside, the new heating element is working.Monitor operation: Let the dryer run for a few more minutes. Listen for unusual noises and watch for any burning smells. If something seems off, turn it off immediately and re-check your installation.If everything runs smoothly, congrats you've successfully replaced your dryer's heating element. If there's still no heat, move on to troubleshooting.Your text is well-structured and easy to follow, but I'll enhance the readability by making slight adjustments, such as refining transitions and emphasizing key points.What to Do If the Dryer Still Doesn't HeatIf you've replaced the heating element and your dryer still isn't producing heat, don't worry several other components could be responsible. Follow these troubleshooting steps to pinpoint the issue.Double-Check Wiring ConnectionsBefore assuming a component failure, confirm that all wiring is properly connected:Inspect the wiring terminals on the heating element.Ensure all connectors are fully seated and secure.Compare the current wiring to any reference pictures you took before disassembly.Test the Thermal FuseThe thermal fuse is a key safety device that cuts power if the dryer overheats. A blown fuse may prevent heating.Use a multimeter to check for continuity.If the fuse is blown, replace it but also determine why it failed (e.g., clogged vents restricting airflow).Check the ThermostatsDryers rely on two main thermostats to regulate temperature:The high-limit thermostat prevents overheating.The cycling thermostat maintains consistent temperatures.Use a multimeter to test both thermostats for continuity. If either one is faulty, replace it.Verify the Power SupplyIf your dryer turns on but doesn't heat, the power supply could be the problem:Electric dryers require two 120V legs (totaling 240V) to produce heat.If one leg is out, the drum may still turn, but no heat will be generated.Use a voltage tester at the dryer power cord or wall outlet to ensure the correct voltage.Inspect the Control Board or Timer (If Applicable)If your dryer has an electronic control board, a malfunction could prevent heating:Look for burn marks, loose connections, or damaged components.In models with a dryer timer switch, a fault in the timing mechanism may be responsible.Prevent Future Heating Element FailuresA heating element burns out for one main reason: overheating. Overheating happens when airflow is restricted, the dryer is overworked, or temperatures spike beyond normal limits. A few simple habits can extend the life of your new heating element and keep your dryer running efficiently.Clean the lint trap after every load. A clogged lint trap reduces airflow, making the dryer work harder and increasing temperatures inside the unit.Vacuum the vent duct at least once a year. Lint builds up in the exhaust vent over time, restricting airflow and causing excessive heat. Disconnect the duct and clean it thoroughly to keep air moving freely.Avoid overloading the dryer. Stuffing the drum full of clothes forces the heating element to stay on longer. Stick to recommended load sizes for even drying and a longer-lasting element.Use the right settings. High heat isn't always necessary. If your clothes don't require it, opt for medium or low heat settings to reduce wear on the element.A little maintenance goes a long way. Keep airflow unobstructed, avoid unnecessary strain, and your heating element will last much longer. Welcome to our comprehensive guide on replacing the heating element in your dryer. Whether you have an electric or gas dryer, a faulty heating element can be the culprit behind your appliance not heating up properly. In this guide, we will walk you through the step-by-step process of troubleshooting and replacing the heating element to ensure that your dryer runs efficiently.Before we dive into the details, let's first understand the importance of a functioning heating element in your dryer. The heating element is responsible for generating the heat that dries your clothes. Over time, it may wear out or become damaged, resulting in reduced heating or no heat at all. By replacing the heating element, you can restore your dryer's performance and ensure that your laundry is dried effectively.Key TakeawaysReplacing the heating element can fix dryer issues such as inadequate heating or no heat.Both electric and gas dryers have heating elements that may require replacement.The process involves disconnecting the old heating element, installing the new one, and testing the dryer for proper functionality.Ensure safety by turning off the power, unplugging the dryer, and wearing protective gloves.If problems persist after replacing the heating element, further troubleshooting may be required.Signs of a Faulty Heating ElementIf your dryer is not heating up properly, it could be a sign of a faulty heating element. The heating element is responsible for generating the heat needed to dry your clothes. When it malfunctions, you may experience issues such as damp or cold clothes, extended drying times, or a complete lack of heat.When troubleshooting a dryer that is not heating, there are a few common steps to follow:Check for power supply issues: Ensure that the dryer is properly plugged in and receiving power. Test the outlet using another appliance to rule out any electrical problems.Inspect the heating element for damage: Remove the dryer's back panel and visually examine the heating element. Look for any visible signs of damage, such as breaks or burns.Test the element for continuity: Use a multimeter to check the electrical continuity of the heating element. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for testing, as the specific steps may vary depending on the model.By going through these troubleshooting steps, you can determine whether the heating element is indeed faulty. If it is, you will need to replace the heating element to restore your dryer's ability to generate heat.Tools and Materials Needed for ReplacementBefore beginning the replacement process, gather the necessary tools and materials. You will need:A screwdriver to remove screws and fasteners.Pliers to safely handle wires and connectors.A multimeter to check electrical continuity.Work gloves to protect your hands during the repair.A replacement heating element that is compatible with your dryer's make and model. This ensures proper fit and functionality.Comparison of Compatible Heating ElementsHeating ElementCompatible Dryer ModelsPriceBrand A Heating ElementDryer Model X, Dryer Model Y, Dryer Model Z$29.99Brand B Heating ElementDryer Model X, Dryer Model Z$34.99Brand C Heating ElementDryer Model Y, Dryer Model Z$39.99Consider the compatibility, price, and customer reviews when selecting a replacement heating element for your dryer.Now that you have the necessary tools and materials, you're ready to proceed with the replacement process.Disconnecting and Removing the Old Heating ElementBefore replacing the heating element, it's important to disconnect the wires and remove the old heating element. Follow these steps to ensure a safe and successful replacement:Turn off the power and unplug the dryer: Safety is paramount when working with electrical appliances. Before starting any repair, make sure to switch off the power to the dryer at the circuit breaker and unplug it from the wall outlet.Remove the back panel: With the power off, locate and remove the screws securing the back panel of the dryer. Carefully set the panel aside, making sure not to damage any wiring or components.Disconnect the wires: Take note of the connections and wiring configuration of the old heating element. Using a screwdriver or pliers, carefully detach the wires from the heating element. It's a good practice to label or take a picture of the wiring for reference when installing the new heating element.Remove the old heating element: Once the wires are disconnected, you can remove the old heating element from its mounting. Some heating elements may be held in place with screws or clips. Follow the manufacturer's instructions or consult the dryer's manual for specific details on removing the heating element.See also Optimal Timing for Lawn Care: When to Power RakeBy following these steps, you can safely disconnect the wires and remove the old heating element from your dryer. This will prepare you for the next stage of the replacement process—installing the new heating element.StepAction1Turn off the power and unplug the dryer2Remove the back panel3Disconnect the wires4Remove the old heating elementInstalling the New Heating ElementNow that you have removed the old heating element, it's time to install the new one. Follow these steps to ensure a successful replacement:Position the new heating element: Carefully place the new heating element in the correct position inside the dryer. Make sure to align the mounting holes on the element with the corresponding holes on the dryer.Secure it with screws: Once the heating element is positioned correctly, use the provided screws to secure it in place. Tighten the screws firmly but avoid over-tightening to prevent damage.Reconnect the wires: Refer to the wiring diagram or labels on the new heating element to correctly reconnect the wires. Ensure that each wire is securely attached and properly insulated. Use pliers if needed to make a tight connection.Ensure proper insulation: Before completing the installation, double-check that the heating element is not touching the metal housing of the dryer. This can cause electrical issues and potential damage to the element.By following these steps, you can confidently install the new heating element in your dryer, restoring its functionality and ensuring efficient drying performance.Pro Tip: If you're unsure about any step or encounter difficulties during the installation process, it's always a good idea to consult the owner's manual or seek professional assistance. Safety should be your top priority when working with electrical components.Reassembling the DryerNow that you have successfully installed the new heating element, it's time to reassemble your dryer. The reassembly process involves reconnecting the back panel or any other parts that were removed to access the heating element compartment. This step is crucial to ensure the proper functioning and safety of your dryer.Start by carefully aligning the back panel with the corresponding slots or brackets on the dryer frame. Make sure all screw holes are properly aligned.Next, use a screwdriver to secure the back panel in place. Tighten all screws firmly, but be cautious not to overtighten them, as this may damage the panel or the dryer housing.Check for any additional clips or fasteners that need to be reattached and secure them accordingly. This will help ensure that all parts are properly in place and prevent any rattling or shaking during operation.Once you have reattached all the necessary components, give the dryer a gentle shake to ensure everything is securely fastened. If you notice any loose parts, go back and double-check the connections.Note: Proper reassembly is crucial to the safe and efficient operation of your dryer. Any loose or improperly fitted parts can lead to noise, vibration, or even potential hazards. Take your time to carefully reattach all components and ensure they are securely fastened.With the back panel reattached and all parts properly in place, your dryer is now ready for operation. Plug it back into the power source and give it a test run to ensure that the heating element is functioning correctly.If you encounter any issues during the reassembly process or your dryer still does not heat up properly, consult the user manual or consider seeking professional assistance. Remember, safety should always be your top priority when working with electrical appliances.See also Universal Grass Catcher for Side Discharge - Shop NowTesting the New Heating ElementNow that you have successfully installed the new heating element in your dryer, it's time to put it to the test. Following these simple steps will ensure that your appliance is working as it should.Plug in the dryer: Ensure that the dryer is properly plugged into a functioning electrical outlet.Turn it on: Start the dryer and select a high heat setting. This will allow the heating element to reach its maximum temperature.Monitor the heating element: Pay attention to the performance of the heating element. It should begin to heat up within a few minutes of starting the dryer. You can check its functionality by feeling the air coming out of the dryer vent or using a non-contact thermometer to measure the temperature.Listen and smell: While the dryer is running, listen for any unusual noises or vibrations that may indicate a problem with the new heating element. Additionally, be aware of any strange smells such as burning or electrical odors.If the heating element is functioning properly, your dryer should heat up efficiently, providing you with dry clothes in no time. However, if you notice any issues during the testing process, it may indicate a problem with the installation or the heating element itself. In such cases, it is advisable to consult a professional for further assistance.Did you know? Properly testing a new heating element ensures that your dryer operates effectively, saving you time and energy in the long run.Now that you have confirmed the functionality of the new heating element in your dryer, you can proceed to reassembling the appliance to complete the replacement process. In Section 8, we will explore troubleshooting other common issues that may affect your dryer's performance.Troubleshooting Other Dryer IssuesIf replacing the heating element did not resolve the issue, there may be other problems with your dryer. Here are some common problems that can cause a dryer to malfunction:Faulty ThermostatA faulty thermostat can prevent your dryer from heating properly. If the thermostat is not detecting the temperature correctly, it may not signal the heating element to turn on. To troubleshoot this issue, you can use a multimeter to test the thermostat for continuity. If it's defective, you'll need to replace it.Burned Out Thermal FuseThe thermal fuse is a safety feature that cuts off power to the heating element if the dryer overheats. If the thermal fuse is burned out, your dryer won't heat up at all. You can test the thermal fuse using a multimeter for continuity. If it's defective, it needs to be replaced with a new one.Broken Start SwitchA broken start switch can prevent your dryer from starting or heating up. If the switch is faulty, it won't send the signal to the heating element. To troubleshoot this issue, you can visually inspect the start switch for any physical damage or use a multimeter to check for continuity. If it's defective, you'll have to replace the start switch.Malfunctioning TimerA malfunctioning timer can cause issues with the heating cycle of your dryer. If the timer is not advancing properly, it may not signal the heating element to turn on when it's supposed to. You can test the timer using a multimeter for continuity or replace it if necessary.Clogged Dryer VentA clogged dryer vent can restrict airflow, causing your dryer to take longer to dry clothes or not heat up properly. It's important to regularly clean the dryer vent to prevent lint buildup. You can use a vent cleaning brush or hire a professional to thoroughly clean the vent and ensure proper airflow.Remember, if you're not confident in troubleshooting or repairing these issues yourself, it's always best to consult a professional appliance technician to avoid further damage to your dryer.See also Whirlpool Dishwasher Start Button Issues FixIssueTroubleshooting StepsFaulty Thermostat1. Use a multimeter to test for continuity. 2. Replace the thermostat if it's defective.Burned Out Thermal Fuse1. Use a multimeter to test for continuity. 2. Replace the thermal fuse if it's burned out.Broken Start Switch1. Inspect the start switch for physical damage. 2. Use a multimeter to test for continuity. 3. Replace the start switch if it's broken.Malfunctioning Timer1. Use a multimeter to test for continuity. 2. Replace the timer if it's malfunctioning.Clogged Dryer Vent1. Clean the dryer vent using a vent cleaning brush or hire a professional for thorough cleaning.ConclusionBy following the step-by-step instructions in this guide, you can easily replace the heating element in your dryer and restore its functionality. Whether you have an electric or gas dryer, this guide provides valuable troubleshooting tips and detailed instructions to help you complete the replacement process successfully.Ensuring that your dryer efficiently dries your clothes is essential, and a faulty heating element can hinder its performance. By replacing the heating element, you can avoid the inconvenience of clothes taking longer to dry or not heating up at all.However, it's important to prioritize safety during the replacement process. Always turn off the power and unplug the dryer before starting any work. If you're unsure or uncomfortable with any steps, consult a professional. Your safety should always be paramount.With the right tools, materials, and a little bit of patience, you can confidently replace the heating element in your dryer. Remember to test the new element once it's installed and listen for any unusual noises or smells. If you encounter any other issues with your dryer, consult our troubleshooting section for further assistance.One common sign of a faulty heating element is if your dryer is not heating up properly. Other signs include clothes taking longer to dry, unusual noises or smells coming from the dryer, or the dryer shutting off before the cycle is complete.To replace the heating element, you will need a screwdriver, pliers, a multimeter, work gloves, and a replacement heating element that is compatible with your dryer's make and model.Before disconnecting the old heating element, make sure the power is off and the dryer is unplugged. Remove the back panel of the dryer to access the heating element. Disconnect the wires connected to the element and carefully remove the old heating element from its mounting.Position the new heating element in place, aligning the mounting holes. Secure it with screws and reconnect the wires according to the wiring diagram or labels. Make sure the element is not touching the metal housing of the dryer.Once the new heating element is installed, reattach the back panel of the dryer or any other parts that were removed to access the heating element compartment. Ensure that all screws and clips are securely fastened.Plug in the dryer and turn it on to test the new heating element. Run the dryer on a high heat setting and ensure that the element is heating up properly. Listen for any unusual noises or smells that may indicate a problem.If replacing the heating element did not resolve the problem, there may be other issues with your dryer. Common problems to troubleshoot include a faulty thermostat, burned-out thermal fuse, broken start switch, malfunctioning timer, or a clogged dryer vent.Source Links April 10, 2023 If you've noticed that your dryer isn't producing heat like it used to, it may be time to replace the heating element. This essential component is responsible for generating hot air that dries your clothes, so a malfunctioning element can be a major inconvenience. Luckily, replacing a heating element is a relatively simple DIY task that you can do yourself. In this article, we'll guide you through the general process so you can get your dryer working like new again. Steps can vary by model and brand. Make sure the dryer is completely unplugged before you begin any work. You will need the following materials: Screwdriver – Use the screwdriver to remove the dryer's back panel and access the heating element. Multimeter – This tool will help you test the heating element for continuity and determine if it needs to be replaced. Pliers – You may need pliers to remove and replace wire connections and other components. Work gloves – To protect your hands while working with electrical components. Replacement heating element – You'll need a new heating element that is compatible with your dryer's make and model, which can be ordered online. Move the dryer away from the wall to access the back panel. Locate the screws holding the back panel in place – they are usually located along the top and bottom edges of the panel. Remove the screws from the back panel with a screwdriver. Some dryer models may have additional clips or fasteners holding the back panel in place. In this case, use a flathead screwdriver (or a putty knife) to move the panel away from the clips. Once all screws and clips are removed, carefully lift the back panel away from the dryer. It's important to be careful when removing the back panel as it may be heavy and can cause injury, or damage to the dryer. Additionally, be sure to keep track of all screws and other fasteners you remove so you can easily reattach the panel once you've completed your repair. Once you have removed the back panel you should be able to see the heating element, which is usually a long, narrow metal tube or coil. It is typically located near the bottom of the dryer, behind the drum. Take a close look at the heating element to confirm if it is damaged or broken. If you see any signs of damage, such as cracks or breaks, it will need to be replaced. If it appears fine, you can try testing it for continuity with your multimeter. If it doesn't have continuity, it will need to be replaced. Disconnect the wires: Take a photo of the wiring or make a diagram so that you know how to reconnect the wires. Carefully disconnect the wires that are connected to the heating element. Remove the heating element: Once the wires are disconnected you can remove the old heating element. Depending on the model, it may be held in place with screws or clips. Clean the area: Use a vacuum or cloth to clean any debris or dust that may have accumulated around the heating element. Verify that you have the correct replacement heating element for your dryer make and model. Refer to your dryer's manual or manufacturer's website for guidance. Install the new heating element into the compartment. Carefully align the mounting holes and secure the element with screws. Make sure the element is positioned correctly and not touching the metal housing of the dryer. Reconnect the wires to the new heating element. Follow the wiring diagram in your dryer's manual or on the back of the dryer to ensure correct wiring. Reinstall the back panel of the dryer or any other parts that were removed to access the heating element compartment. Test the new heating element by turning on the dryer and running it on a high heat setting. Make sure the element is heating properly and there are no strange noises or smells. Finally, make sure the dryer is properly grounded and the venting system is free of any obstructions or damage. This will ensure the safe and efficient operation of your dryer. Sometimes other issues with your dryer can mimic a broken heating element. Here are some other things to investigate if replacing your heating element didn't fix the issue: Faulty thermostat: A dryer's thermostat is responsible for regulating the temperature inside the drum. If the thermostat is faulty, it may not be able to accurately read the temperature, which can cause the dryer to stop heating properly. Burned out thermal fuse: The thermal fuse is a safety device that shuts off the heating element if the dryer overheats. If the thermal fuse is burned out the dryer will not heat up at all. Broken start switch: The start switch is what initiates the dryer's heating cycle. If the switch is broken the dryer will not heat up. Malfunctioning timer: The dryer's timer controls how long the dryer runs. If the timer is malfunctioning it may not allow the dryer to run long enough to heat up properly. Clogged dryer vent: A clogged dryer vent restricts the airflow in the dryer, causing it to overheat and shut down the heating element. (Image credit: Getty) Knowing how to replace a dryer heating element is important to ensure your dryer stays in good condition and dries your laundry properly. If your dryer has stopped heating up or drying your clothes properly, it's likely that the heating element needs replacing. Luckily, the process of fixing a dryer heating element is relatively straightforward if you have some basic tools and take the necessary safety precautions. It may seem like a daunting task at first, and if you really feel uncomfortable with the thought of changing the heating element yourself, then we always recommend consulting a professional. Plus, if your dryer is especially old, then there are other safety precautions to take into account, such as being careful with sharp edges and old wires, so in this case, consulting an expert is a must. If you have one of the best dryers, then you can use this guide to help it keep working efficiently. For people who are looking to upgrade their laundry room, be sure to check out our guide to the best washer dryer combos. You may like Why should you replace a dryer heating element?You should replace your dryer's heating element if it stops drying your clothes entirely or if it's taking longer to dry than it used to. An old heating element can greatly impact the performance of the dryer and can also pose a safety hazard. A faulty heating element will result in the dryer not generating enough heat to dry your clothes properly, which can lead to other components in your dryer working hard to compensate for the cooler temperature. If other parts wear out due to the lack of heat, it will cost more to repair in the future, so it's best to avoid this by replacing a faulty heating element as soon as possible. A broken heating element can also pose a serious hazard, leading to the dryer overheating or even starting a fire. Broken heating elements can also cause a burning smell or even smoke - if you notice either of these things coming from your dryer, then you need to address the problem immediately. It is important to replace the heating element with the correct replacement part which is specific to your model. If you don't want to replace the element yourself, or if you are wary about working with electrical components, then you should contact a professional to do it for you. What the expert says...Leo Watts, Head of Content at CNCSourced, says, "Replacing a dryer heating element is not as daunting as it may seem. With the right tools and a bit of patience, you can get your dryer back to peak performance in no time. Just remember to double-check your work and stay safe."Replacing the heating element is a quick and easy process if you have some basic tools. You will likely only need a screwdriver and/or a pair of pliers. Follow the steps below to replace your dryer heating element and restore your dryer. 1. Unplug your dryerSign up to receive the latest news, reviews, buying guides and deals direct to your inboxBefore starting any work, make sure you unplug your dryer from the power source.2. Locate the heating elementThe heating element is typically located on the back of your dryer, but it can vary with some models. If you're struggling to find it, then check your dryer's manual or search for a guide online. 3. Remove your old heating elementThe heating element is normally held in place with screws but could be held in with bolts on some older models. Use a screwdriver or pliers to remove them and gently pull the old element out of the dryer. 4. Install the new heating elementInsert the new heating element into the same location, and use screws or bolts to hold it in place. If the old screws are corroded or warped, then we would recommend going to a hardware store and getting replacements. 5. Put any covers back onIf you had to remove any covers or panels to access the heating element, then put them back in place. 6. Test your dryerRun a drying cycle to see if your dryer heats up properly. If it's hot then you have succeeded in replacing your old heating element. If the problem persists, then we would recommend contacting a professional as it may be caused by an electrical problem. 1 Unplug the dryer. Make sure there's no power going to your dryer while you're working. 2 Take off dryer exhaust hose and remove the back panel.[1] Advertisement 3 Look at the back of the dryer. On the right side, you'll see a long metal (probably gray) housing. The Element is inside.[2] 4 Unscrew the black sensor on top, and unscrew the black sensor on the bottom.[3] 5 Unhook the two wires just below the bottom sensor. (These two sensors could be your problem (in 50% of the cases, it is). Also, there is a heating fuse to your left, under the larger casing on the left. It is about an inch long, and has two wires attached. This can also be your problem. One screw holds it in. If in doubt, take all these to the appliance store, and they'll test them with a voltmeter.) Test the heating element with a multimeter by setting it to read continuity. Touch the 2 leads of the heating element with the multimeter. If there isn't any continuity, then you need to replace the element. 6 Gently lift up on the whole gray casing. It should easily come loose. If not, lift a little harder and pull the bottom toward you. There may be a screw and small bracket at the top that needs to be removed. There are some hooks on the bottom that will come loose. 7 Turn it upside down; you'll see one screw holding the element in. Take out the screw, and carefully pull out the element, which is a coil that heats up, on some metal housing. Examine the coil for breaks. If you have a voltmeter, test the element. Also test the Sensors. This will tell you what's broken. 8 Install the new element in the reverse of the above. Replace the element, replace all the sensors and the back panel, as well as the exhaust hose. When done, try it out![4] Advertisement Add New Question Question Why won't my dryer turn on after I've replaced the heating element? There can be quite a few reasons for this. Electric parts may have gotten damaged; a fuse may need a replacement; the protection switch inside the machine may have been triggered; a wall plug fuse may be off...Google for a manual or call your plumber. Question I've replaced my heat element coil, but now my fuse keeps blowing. What should I do? Check to see if you put the heat element coil in properly and that the wires are connected. Question Can I do this if it is a gas dryer? That is a very dangerous task to do on your own. It would be best to Have a professional appliance repair technician do it for you. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Co-authored by: Appliance Repair Specialist This article was co-authored by Homer Flores. 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 335,046 times. Co-authors: 8 Updated: May 2, 2024 Views: 335,046 Categories: Washing Machines and Dryers Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 335,046 times. "Great instructions. They were accurate and complete. They would have been better if they had explained how to test the elements, i.e. continuity and resistance."..." more Share your story How to Replace Dryer Heating Element?To replace a dryer heating element, you will need a continuity test, a multimeter, a new heating element, sensors, a heating fuse, a larger casing, and basic tools.Start by locating the heating element, typically found on the left side of the dryer and around an inch long with two wires connected to it.Before proceeding, ensure the dryer is unplugged.Access the heating element by removing any necessary panels or covers.Use a continuity test or a multimeter to test the old heating element for resistance; if it shows infinite resistance or no continuity, it needs replacement.Purchase a new heating element from an appliance store, and refer to the dryer's manual or a guide for the specific replacement process.Install the new heating element following the provided instructions.After installation, perform a test to check if the replacement was successful using a voltmeter.Remember, electrical repairs can be hazardous, so it's important to exercise caution and follow safety guidelines throughout the process.Key Points:Gather necessary tools and materials for replacing dryer heating element:continuity testmultimeternew heating elementsensorsheating fuselarger casingbasic toolsLocate the old heating element on the left side of the dryer and disconnect the wires.Ensure that the dryer is unplugged before starting the replacement process.Access the heating element by removing panels or covers as needed.Test the old heating element for resistance using a continuity test or multimeter; replace if resistance is infinite or there is no continuity.Purchase a new heating element from an appliance store and consult the dryer's manual or a guide for installation instructions.Did You Know?1. The first electric clothes dryer was invented in 1915 by J. Ross Moore, who was inspired by the concept of replacing the labor-intensive process of drying clothes over open flames.2. Before the invention of automatic clothes dryers, people used a variety of methods to dry their clothes, including hanging them out to dry in the sun, using a handheld clothes wringer, or even placing them on heated rocks or metal bars.3. The heating element in a dryer is generally made of a coil of nichrome wire, which is a high-resistance alloy that can withstand the high temperatures necessary for efficient clothes drying.4. Dryer heating elements can wear out over time, leading to decreased heating performance. However, if you notice that your clothes are taking longer to dry, it's not always the heating element that is at fault; other factors, such as clogged dryer vents or a malfunctioning thermostat, can also cause drying issues.5. Replacing a dryer heating element can be a relatively straightforward task for those with basic DIY skills. However, it's essential to disconnect the dryer from the power supply and follow all safety precautions to prevent electrical shocks or other accidents during the replacement process.1. Continuity Test For Dryer Heating ElementWhen your dryer stops producing heat, it may be due to a faulty heating element. Before replacing it, it is essential to determine if the heating element is indeed the problem. A continuity test can help you with this. This test checks if there is an unbroken electrical connection from one end of the heating element to the other.To perform a continuity test, you will need a multimeter. Ensure that your dryer is unplugged and disconnected from any power source before proceeding. Locate the heating element, which is usually at the back of the dryer. It is a long, narrow metal component with two wires attached to it.With the multimeter set to continuity mode, touch the probes to each end of the heating element's terminals. If the multimeter displays a reading close to zero or beeps, it means there is continuity, and the heating element is functioning correctly. However, if there is no reading or a significantly high resistance, it indicates a broken heating element that needs replacement.2. Using A Multimeter For ReplacementNow that you have confirmed that the heating element needs replacement, let's proceed with the actual replacement process.Related Post: Does Nylon Shrink in the Dryer? The Intriguing Truth RevealedBegin by purchasing a new heating element from your local appliance store, ensuring it is compatible with your dryer's make and model.To replace the heating element, start by disconnecting the dryer from the power source and removing any exterior panels necessary to access the heating element assembly. Use the multimeter again to verify that there is no continuity in the heating element by performing the same continuity test as before.Once confirmed, proceed to disconnect the two wires connected to the heating element. If necessary, take pictures or mark the wires to ensure proper reconnection later. Remove any mounting screws or brackets that secure the heating element in place. Carefully slide out the old heating element and replace it with the new one. Reattach all wires and secure the heating element back into place.3. Replacing The Heating Element And SensorsWhile replacing the heating element, it is important to inspect and replace any faulty sensors. These sensors are crucial in regulating temperature and preventing overheating. Many dryers are equipped with high limit thermostats and thermal fuses that are located near the heating element.To check the sensors for continuity, follow the same steps as outlined previously and use a multimeter. If any faulty sensors are found, purchase replacements from an appliance store and install them together with the new heating element. Finally, reattach all wires and ensure a secure fit.4. Checking And Replacing The Heating FuseThe heating fuse is a safety component that can blow out if there is a power surge or overheating issue. To check if your dryer has a heating fuse:Refer to your dryer's manual or search online for the specific model to see if it has a heating fuse.Use a voltmeter to check for continuity.Disconnect the dryer from the power source and access the heating fuse.Set the voltmeter to continuity mode and touch the probes to each end of the fuse.If the voltmeter displays continuity, the fuse is functioning correctly.If there is no continuity, replace the heating fuse with a new one.Note: It's important to always refer to the dryer's manual or seek professional help when dealing with electrical components.Make sure to refer to your dryer's manual or search online for your specific model to determine if it has a heating fuse.Use a voltmeter to check for continuity by disconnecting the dryer from the power source and accessing the heating fuse.Set the voltmeter to continuity mode and touch the probes to each end of the fuse.If there is continuity, the fuse is functioning correctly.If there is no continuity, replace the heating fuse with a new one.5. Upgrading To A Larger Casing For EfficiencyConsider upgrading to a larger casing for your heating element to enhance its efficiency.A larger casing allows for better heat distribution.This can reduce the overall drying time and decrease energy consumption.When upgrading to a larger casing, ensure it is compatible with your dryer's make and model.It is recommended to consult a professional or refer to your dryer's manual for specific instructions on the upgrade process.6. Locating And Replacing The Heating Element On The Left Side Of The DryerIn most dryers, the heating element is located on the left side. To access it, start by disconnecting the dryer from the power source and removing any exterior panels necessary for access. Once you have exposed the components inside the dryer, locate the heating element, which is usually a long, thin metal component.To replace the heating element, follow the steps outlined in section 2:Disconnect the two wires connected to the elementRemove any mounting screws or bracketsCarefully slide out the old heating elementReplace it with the new element, ensuring all wires are securely reattached and the element is properly mounted.Note: It is important to handle the replacement with caution and safety precautions.By following these steps, you can confidently replace the heating element in your dryer and restore its functionality.Consider performing a continuity test using a multimeter for replacementReplace any malfunctioning sensors and the heating fuse if necessaryConsider upgrading to a larger casingRemember to always prioritize safety when working with electrical appliances.Check this out:Frequently Asked QuestionsIs it expensive to replace heating element in dryer?The cost of replacing a heating element in a dryer can vary depending on the type of dryer you have. On average, the price ranges from $40 to $100, although it can be as low as $30 or as high as $200. It is essential to consider the specific make and model of your dryer to determine the exact cost of the heating element replacement.What causes dryer heating element failure?Dryer heating element failure can be attributed to various factors. While heating elements do naturally wear out over time, it is important to note that certain practices can accelerate this deterioration. Overloading the dryer with excessive amounts of laundry can strain the heating element, causing it to work harder and potentially fail prematurely. Additionally, neglecting to clean the lint screen regularly can lead to lint buildup, obstructing the airflow and causing the heating element to overheat. Moreover, poor ventilation in the dryer area can restrict the escape of hot air, causing the heating element to overwork and eventually burn out.1. What are the steps to properly replace a dryer heating element and ensure it is installed correctly?To properly replace a dryer heating element and ensure it is installed correctly, follow these steps:1. Disconnect the power: Start by unplugging the dryer from the electrical outlet or turning off the circuit breaker to avoid any electrical hazards.2. Access the heating element: Remove the back or front panel of the dryer, depending on its model. Locate the heating element by referring to the appliance's manual.3. Disconnect wires and remove old element: Carefully disconnect the wires connected to the heating element. Use a screwdriver or socket wrench to remove any screws or brackets holding the old element in place. Gently pull the old element out.4. Install the new heating element: Insert the new heating element in the same position as the old one. Secure it with screws or brackets and reconnect the wires according to their original connections.5. Reassemble and test: Put back the panels you removed, making sure they are securely in place. Restore the power and turn on the dryer to test if the new heating element is functioning correctly.2. Are there any specific safety precautions or tools required when replacing a dryer heating element, and if so, what are they? Yes, there are specific safety precautions and tools required when replacing a dryer heating element. Firstly, it is crucial to unplug the dryer from the power source to avoid any electrical accidents. Additionally, it is recommended to use protective gloves and goggles to prevent burns and eye injuries during the replacement process.In terms of tools, you typically need a screwdriver, a multimeter to test for continuity, and a wrench to remove any necessary bolts or screws. It is important to consult the dryer's user manual or seek professional assistance before attempting to replace the heating element to ensure you have the right tools and to follow the proper safety procedures.References: 1, 2, 3, 4 A heating element for a dryer is a critical electrical component responsible for generating the heat necessary to dry clothes efficiently. It operates by converting electrical energy into heat through a coiled wire, made from a nickel-chromium alloy, which heats up when an electric current passes through it. This heat is then transferred to the air inside the dryer drum, allowing it to evaporate moisture.On average, a dryer heating element can last between 5 to 15 years, depending on factors such as usage frequency, maintenance practices, and the overall condition of the dryer. However, the actual lifespan can be influenced by factors such as usage frequency, quality of the element, regular maintenance, overheating, voltage fluctuations, and physical damage.Why does the heating element for the dryer get damaged?The damage to the clothes dryer heating element can stem from a variety of causes, which are detailed below:FactorsConditionExcessive Use and Prolonged OperationContinuous and heavy use can lead to accelerated wear and tear, reducing the lifespan of the heating element.Quality of Elements and Appliances Poor quality heating elements, especially those in lower-quality appliances, tend to have a shorter lifespan.Lack of Regular Maintenance Neglecting routine maintenance, such as cleaning the lint filter and vents, can put unnecessary strain on the heating element.OverheatingMalfunctioning thermostats or temperature controls can cause overheating, which can significantly damage the heating element and shorten its life.Voltage Fluctuations and Power SurgesSudden changes in voltage or power surges can harm the heating elementMineral BuildupIn areas with hard water, mineral deposits can accumulate on the heating element, reducing its efficiency and potentially shortening its lifespan.Accidental Damage or MisuseThe heating element can also fail due to accidental damage or improper use of the dryer.Here are some measures to prevent dryer element damage.Regular Cleaning: Maintain regular cleaning of your dryer, especially the lint filter and vent, to prevent dust and lint accumulation.Check the Ventilation System: Ensure your dryer's exhaust pipe is clear and unobstructed, as any blockages can cause excessive internal temperatures .Avoid Overuse: Do not use your dryer continuously for extended periods to prevent the heating element from overheating due to constant heating.Inspect Electrical Connections: Make sure the electrical connections to the heating element are secure and undamaged; loose or faulty connections can affect heating performance.Check for Wear and Damage: Regularly inspect the heating element for signs of wear or damage, such as frayed wires or broken coils, and replace any damaged heating elements promptly.Lubricate Moving Parts: If your dryer has moving parts related to the heating element, such as a fan or motor, ensure they are lubricated regularly for smooth operation.Signs of Dryer Heating Element Failure:If your dryer's heating element is on the fritz, you might notice clothes that don't dry, longer drying times, or the machine getting too hot. Maybe it's making weird noises or just not starting at all. If you smell something burning or see smoke, that's a red flag. Time to call in a pro to fix it up.To test a dryer's heating element, follow these steps:1.Safety Warning:Before performing any electrical testing or repairs, ensure that the dryer is unplugged from the power source to prevent the risk of electric shock.2.Check the Circuit Breaker:Confirm that the circuit breaker has not tripped. If it has, reset the breaker and check if the dryer resumes working.3.Voltage Test:Use a multimeter to measure the voltage at the dryer's power outlet to ensure proper power supply. For a 240-volt dryer, check for 120 volts at each of the two separate wire terminals with respect to the neutral and ground buses.4.Ohm Meter Test:Unplug the dryer and use the lowest ohm setting on a multimeter to test the two wire terminals of the heating element.Normally, the reading should be between a few ohms to several tens of ohms. If the reading is very high (e.g., over 100,000 ohms), it indicates that the heating element may be damaged.5.Visual Inspection:Check for any obvious breaks or other signs of damage to the heating element.6.Check the Venting System:Ensure that the venting is unobstructed, not crushed, and free of water accumulation, as a blocked venting system can cause the heating element to overheat.7.Check Other Electrical Components:Test other electrical components that may affect the operation of the heating element, such as temperature sensors, relays, and control boards.8.Test the Relay:If the dryer has a relay controlling the heating element, use a multimeter to test the relay's coil and contacts to ensure it is functioning properly.9.Check the Thermal Fuse:Inspect the thermal fuse to see if it has blown, which can prevent the heating element from overheating and getting damaged.10.Reassemble and Test:If you have replaced the heating element or other components, reassemble the dryer and plug it back in to test if it works properly.How to buy dryer heating elements?ELEKHEAT: Leading the Way in High-Quality Heating SolutionsFounded in 2000, ELEKHEAT has over 20 years of experience in manufacturing premium electric heating products for a wide range of applications. Our 48,000-square-meter factory, equipped with cutting-edge production technologies, ensures the highest quality for every product. We offer a comprehensive selection of ELEKHEAT heaters, including heating elements for dryers, with solutions for residential, commercial, and industrial needs. Our commitment to innovation and quality guarantees that our products are not only safe and eco-friendly but also cost-effective. Additionally, we provide custom heating elements tailored to meet your specific requirements, ensuring the best fit for your needs. Trust ELEKHEAT for reliable, efficient, and affordable heating solutions.Heating element for the dryer DIY replacement and installation guide:ELEKHEAT, encourages capable customers to consider DIY replacement of the heating element for their dryers, a method that can significantly reduce costs. On average, replacing a dryer heating element costs $230, but DIY can greatly cut this expense, especially when you purchase parts directly from us. For electric and gas dryers, replacement costs typically range from $90 to $250 and $100 to $350, respectively. By choosing the DIY route, customers can save on labor costs, which usually range from $60 to $150 per hour. Plus, buying from ELEKHEAT cuts out the middleman, offering you the necessary parts at a more economical price.How to Replace the Heating Element for a Dryer1. Disconnect PowerUnplug the dryer to ensure safety before starting the repair process.2. Remove Back Panel and Exhaust HoseDetach the exhaust hose and unscrew the back panel to access the heating element.3. Locate the Heating ElementFind the long gray housing on the right side, which contains the dryer element.4. Disconnect Sensors and FuseUnscrew the sensors at the top and bottom, and check for a heating fuse that might also be faulty.5. Test the Heating ElementUse a multimeter to check continuity. If there's no continuity, the heating element for the dryer needs replacement.6. Remove the Heating ElementLift the casing and remove the screw holding the heating element in place. Carefully pull out the element and inspect it for damage.7. Install the New ElementPlace the new dryer element in the casing, secure it with the screw, and reconnect the sensors and fuse.8. Reassemble the DryerReattach the back panel and exhaust hose, ensuring all parts are securely fastened.9. Test the DryerPlug the dryer back in and run a cycle to ensure the new heating element is working properly.This simplified guide helps you replace the clothes dryer heating element efficiently and safely.If you're unsure whether to replace your heating element for the dryer, check this link for guidance. Below are user reviews on the dryer element DIY replacement, sharing their experiences on whether a replacement was needed.