

SMALL APPLIANCE REPAIR GUIDE

Your How-To Guide For Do-It-Yourself
Small Appliance Repair

By AnThony Legins

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Home Appliances: Repair Or Replace

What to do when a home appliance breaks down or goes on the fritz is an issue that many people encounter in the twenty-first century.

Of course, many people's first instinct is to call a repairman and get the machine repaired.

On the other hand, many individuals nowadays are ready to simply go out and replace the broken item with a new one.

In fact, while deciding whether to repair or replace a broken household appliance, there are a few things to consider.

Price is perhaps the most significant issue to consider, regardless of everything else that comes to mind.

Many fundamental home appliances are now priced in such a way that if you have owned and used the equipment for a long time, it is more cost effective to simply go out and get a replacement product.

Many basic clothes washer and dryer systems, for example, are now reasonably priced in many nations throughout the world.

In other words, the expense of repairing a broken old appliance may be so high that

purchasing a new device may actually save you money in the long run.

On the other hand, many people are currently investing a large amount of money in their household appliances.

Various people in some areas of the world, for example, pay tens of thousands of dollars to equip their kitchens with the most up-to-date household appliances.

In fact, many people spend the same amount of money on a refrigerator as they do on a car.

If you are the type of person who spends a substantial amount of money on home appliances, you will naturally want to consider getting them repaired.

Finally, some people develop attachments to specific home appliances, particularly those related to the kitchen.

If that's the case, and the cost of repair isn't prohibitive, it makes sense to have the broken item repaired rather than replaced.

Choosing The Right Home Appliances

Choosing the correct household appliances from a wide range of options that match your specific needs is a difficult undertaking. If one does not make an informed decision, one's hard-earned money may be wasted.

The first and most important thing to remember is to make an objective assessment of the actual need at home as well as the money for it.

Before going to the store, many busy homeowners do not care to plan or research the money that may be spent on a product or the required attributes of the needed product.

When the heart takes over the head during the shopping process, either the least necessary or the most expensive items are purchased.

On the other hand, having a pre-planned budget and a list of the most important items to acquire would help us save time and money.

Nowadays, the market offers a large range of items from many companies and selecting the correct brand with the proper qualities necessitates a significant amount of effort and research.

Relying on consumer publications is the greatest alternative. Many of the publications can be found on the internet or at a public library. These books provide sound counsel based on research. They make observations on several features present in various brands.

It is better to choose a higher-quality product rather one with more features. Nowadays, most things are available online at lower prices than in a local market; therefore, it is sometimes preferable to purchase these products online to have a wider selection and save tax.

The amount of room the item will take up at home is an issue that is frequently overlooked when making a buying decision. A cramped or cluttered bathroom or kitchen would later cause anger.

Finally, there is the warranty supplied for the product, which necessitates careful consideration of the guaranteed length and parts covered. It is necessary to investigate the location of after-sales service or a facility for home repair.

Though thorough information on new brands that flood the market is available in any show room or on websites, a sensible buyer would be wise to trust an existing happy buyer, as the old saying goes, "only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches."

Many embarrassments and post-purchase animosity can be prevented if one follows these basic ideas and standards before adding to their household appliances.

Household Appliances That Can Save You Money

Household items, such as appliances, cleaning supplies, and groceries, account for a large amount of the average person's spending.

Not only does purchasing these products cost a lot of money but using them can be costly as well.

Purchasing appliances that can save money while in use is one approach to reduce the costs of running a household.

Buy “Do It Yourself” Appliances

By acquiring an electric food slicer, you may avoid paying extra for services like having meat and cheeses sliced at the deli.

If you buy three pounds of sliced roast beef from the deli, it will cost you \$23.97. For \$13.21, you can buy the same amount of roast beef in the meat area, bake it, and slice it at home.

Not only will the electric food slicer save you hundreds of dollars on deli meats and cheeses, but it also allows you to slice your own bread, veggies, and fruits.

Electric food slicers can cost anywhere from \$34 to \$470, but the cheaper models function just as well and are frequently smaller, taking up less counter space.

The larger, more expensive devices are only required by someone who caters from their house.

Regardless of the electric food slicer is chosen, the savings produced will quickly pay for the purchase price.

Avoid Products Requiring Refills

The dust buster has returned!

While Swiffer products are currently all the rage, the additional supplies required to use them can quickly add up.

Dry surfaces, moist surfaces, and dusting all require various cloths.

The original dust buster, unlike the Swiffer, is a one-time purchase that can handle problems on both carpet and hard surfaces.

The dust buster eliminates the need to purchase replacement wet cloths, dry cloths, duster cloths, or any other carpet cleaning instrument.

What about that spill on the kitchen floor? It'll suffice to use a paper towel or a sponge.

It's All About the Energy

And, of course, energy-efficient appliances are less expensive to operate.

The Energy Star Label is one approach to locate energy saving appliances. This label appears on appliances that meet the US Department of Energy's and the US Environmental Protection Agency's strict energy efficiency criteria.

Apart from water heaters, stoves, and ovens, the Energy Star logo can help you find practically any appliance.

Utility bills drop significantly for people who choose to utilize energy efficient appliances.

Repairing Household Cleaning Equipment

Cleaning equipment repair is probably something we don't think about daily in terms of our homes. Of course, when something doesn't work right, the subject comes to mind.

The greatest approach to avoid having to fix something is to prevent it from happening in the first place.

Most of us, for example, have floor or bathtub cleaners and/or "stand-up" dust pans with screw-on handles.

If we break the handle, rather than throwing away the entire implement, replacing the handle is less expensive and better for the environment.

Many companies are producing flimsy cleaning devices that are readily discarded.

They strive to entice customers by claiming that these things will make their household cleaning programs more efficient. It is more practical to utilize solid tools and perform cleaning equipment repair.

Make a Timetable

Creating household cleaning schedules is both practical and wise.

It will be easy to keep on top of our responsibilities if we use this strategy.

Cleaning and repairing cleaning equipment should be part of the routine.

We won't have to stop and order a part or take something to be fixed if we keep everything in top functioning order all the time.

Keep an additional vacuum cleaner belt on hand as one example. That way, if you're vacuuming one day and the belt breaks, you can simply replace it.

This is an example of planning ahead of time for cleaning equipment repair.

There are numerous books and websites that provide useful household tips, but the most of them overlook this crucial concept.

How To Repair A Gas Stove

When a gas stove breaks down in the middle of preparing a meal or even before you've placed the pot on the stovetop, how do you fix it?

Can you tell whether your gas stove has a problem and whether you can fix it yourself (or if you'll need professional help)?

When compared to electric stoves, most problems with gas stoves are straightforward mechanical issues that can be remedied with a few self-help troubleshooting steps.

You only need good observation and common sense to fix a gas stove in your kitchen.

Do-it-yourself, usually works, unless you smell gas, suspect a gas leak, and can't figure out where the leak is coming from. That is the moment to seek professional assistance.

Here are some tips for repairing a gas stove on your own:

What should you do if your burners become clogged?

The burners on your gas stove have portholes around them via which gas is

discharged and reaches the igniter's spark, which lights a controlled flame.

You might question why your burners aren't lighting up after multiple attempts on the dial.

Examine the burner portholes; they may be clogged, preventing gas from reaching the igniter.

You may examine the blockages by removing the burner top and grate, as well as the burner assembly with the portholes.

In this scenario, all you must do is clean the portholes with a toothpick or pin, making sure the hole is clear but not deformed by your picking, brushing the holes to eliminate any remnant or residue, and then completely washing or brushing the burner.

If this doesn't work, get professional repair assistance right away.

Is it possible to change the flame setting or the size of the flame?

The flame on your stove should be vivid blue in color and continually burning.

The blue color indicates that the gas fuel and surrounding air are properly mixed, indicating that the fuel is being burned efficiently.

If the flame is yellowish or whitish in color, there may be an issue with the aeration of the gas igniting or the mixing of air with the gas fuel.

You not only end up with sooty pans, but you also risk overfeeding the stove with gas.

The stove's pilot, which is a screw valve positioned behind the control knobs, can be adjusted to adjust the air and gas mixture to the safest and most efficient level.

You can crank and adjust this pilot with a screwdriver until you obtain a bluish flame, which indicates you've attained the efficient air-gas mixture level.

You may still be unable to achieve an instant flame on your burners after cleaning and adjusting the pilot. This is also a good opportunity to check the ignition.

The spark ignition, which is attached to the control knob on your stove, ignites the mixed gas and air to start a flame.

The igniter can be found on the left or right side of the burner, close to it.

Check for blockages, severed wires, or a malfunctioning spark mechanism in the igniter. Brush it to remove blockages and

disclose any damaged mechanisms, which may be easily purchased and replaced if necessary.

Electronic igniters are used in some gas stove types, and they can become damaged over time owing to regular wear and use.

If this is the case, the electronic igniter may need to be replaced as well.

Also, examine your electronic igniter for any severed wiring or exposed insulation; the module may be grounded and not working properly.

Check the valve for integrity, such as loose hose clamps or malfunctioning valve gates, if you smell gas and trace it to your gas safety valve.

If there is still a trace of gas odor after tightening these clamps and valves, take your appliance to a qualified repairman.

There may also be occasions when your stove releases more smoke than usual, causing you to panic. Before you get too worked up, check your stove for drips. Fat and grease drip and collect on the burners and drip pans from time to time. These drops produce a lot of smoke when they come into contact with a flame and are burned.

Simply remove the drip pans and brush away the grease that has accumulated on them, then thoroughly wash and dry them before reusing them.

These are only a few fundamental guidelines for repairing a gas stove. However, if you can't pinpoint an issue, it's always best to leave it to the professionals.

When in doubt, take your gas stove to the local repair shop.

Repairing a Dishwasher Door Switch

You'd have no idea your dishwasher had one until it stopped working.

These small switches are usually found inside your dishwasher's control panel and are a part of the door latch.

The door latch secures the door to the dishwasher's main body and prevents water from leaking during a cycle.

A defective door switch could be the cause of your dishwasher's failure to start.

How the door switch works

The switch is off when the dishwasher door is open.

A metal or plastic prong will be found inside your dishwasher tub. Close the door and latch it.

The prong will completely compress the door switch, closing the circuit and allowing the dishwasher to begin.

Make sure the prong isn't loose or bent, and that it's correctly triggering the door switch.

Before undertaking any repairs, make sure the dishwasher is unplugged from the power source.

You can unplug the dishwasher, remove the fuse from your fuse box, or turn off the circuit breaker on your circuit panel.

This will prevent you from getting an electric shock.

What a door switch looks like and where it's located

A dishwasher door switch is usually one inch long. It comes in black or red and features metal prongs projecting from the body called terminals.

There are two terminals on some door switches and three on others.

A common terminal (COM), a normally closed terminal (NC), or a normally open terminal (NO) can be used (NO). A COM and a NO, or a COM and an NC, will be found on switches with only two terminals. COM, NC, and NO are the three terminals on door switches with three terminals.

The door switch on your dishwasher will be located beneath the control panel on the front of the appliance.

It may be necessary to first remove the door's inner panel. This can be accomplished by removing a few screws. The hinges are held in place by the screws at the bottom of the door. This repair does not necessitate the removal of the entire door.

After removing the inner panel, you may notice a smaller panel covering the rear of the control panel, which is held in place by screws or clips. You may access the latch assembly, which houses the door switch, by removing this panel.

How to remove the switch

Pull the wires running from the harness off the terminals with needle nose pliers. Depress the lever on door switches with a locking clip while carefully pulling the harness away from the terminal.

When removing switches that are part of the latch assembly or have a bracket, take your time. You'll have to replace additional pieces if you rush and break the switch's casing.

How to test your door switch

Check the switch for continuity with an ohmmeter. This test is for three-terminal door switches.

1. Use a Rx1 scale on your ohmmeter to measure resistance.
2. Connect the metal tips of the test leads and zero your ohmmeter by turning the thumbwheel on the front of the meter until the needles on the scale read "0."
3. Connect one meter lead to the COM terminal and the other to the NO terminal using the meter leads. Do not slam the actuator shut.
4. Your meter should display infinity, indicating that the circuit is open and no continuity exists.
5. Press down on the actuator until you hear a 'click' without displacing the meter's leads.
6. When the actuator 'clicks,' the meter should display a resistance measurement of zero ohms. This indicates that the circuit is closed and that there is continuity. (You'll only hear this click if you have a three-terminal door switch.)
7. Leave the meter lead touching the COM terminal in place, but switch the other meter lead from the NO to the NC terminal.
8. When the actuator is released, the resistance value should be zero ohms.

9. Now, set your ohmmeter to the maximum resistance scale and connect one of the meter leads to the NO terminal and the other to the NC terminal.

10. Between these two leads, the resistance reading should be infinite.

Finally, measure the resistance between the NC and NO terminals of any metal mounting hardware that is part of the switch assembly. You should get a standard infinite reading.

Any values that deviate from the tests above indicate that the door switch is malfunctioning and needs to be replaced.

Using the same procedure as before, replace the old switch with a new one.

Reconnect your dishwasher's power source and reassemble the inner door panel.

Remember to replace your fuse or reconnect your circuit breaker.

Run your dishwasher through a cycle to make sure it's working properly.

A Guide to Vacuum Cleaner Repair

In most cases, there is someone who can repair your broken vacuum cleaner nearby.

Whether they specialize in vacuum cleaner repairs or work on a wide range of motorized home appliances, they should be able to quickly repair your damaged item.

If you have one of the less expensive versions, you might want to consider purchasing a new one rather than having it repaired.

Unless you really must have the vacuum cleaner that you've been accustomed to for a long time, the hourly labor fee and parts expenses may not justify the repair price.

On examination, which is normally free unless the problem is not easily diagnosed on the surface, an honest repair shop will tell you that.

When you discover a repair business and bring your broken vacuum cleaner in, they will most likely ask you a few easy questions. You'd obviously fix it yourself if you knew what was wrong.

When most individuals bring in a broken vacuum cleaner, they only know it's broken.

The repair shop would inquire as to what was going on when it came to a halt. They'll inquire as to how old it is, as well as a few other essential inquiries, in order to make a quick assessment of the situation. Then they'll perform a brief examination of the visible moving parts, and if they notice anything, they'll be able to tell you what's wrong and what it'll take to fix it right away.

You'll have to leave the unit in the shop, pay a modest fee for them to determine the extent of the problem, and discuss the situation over the phone before they conduct the repairs if they can't diagnose the problem promptly.

You can then decide whether you want to spend the money on repairing your vacuum cleaner or throwing it away and buy a new one.

Simple DIY Air Conditioner Repairs

Your air conditioning equipment, like everything else that gets used on a regular basis, may need to be repaired in the near future.

If something goes wrong with the unit, it can be simply rectified.

Let's say your air conditioner isn't cool enough even when it's working properly. In this scenario, a little cleaning can be enough to solve the problem. Read the user's manual and if you've misplaced it, contact the company for a replacement or visit the website.

Choose a day when it is somewhat warm to repair your air conditioner in order to spot the malfunction better and sooner.

Maintain your cool (pun intended) while you repair.

While you're at it, turn off the electricity to the unit. This is normally done through the air conditioning unit's shutoff panel. However, if you can't discover such a panel, turn off the power to the entire house for that period.

Also, rake all dirt from the condenser outside to start the cleaning process.

Taking the grill cover off the condenser is the first step in determining where the problem lies.

Then, using a soft brush or a soft material, clean the blades or fins, taking care not to damage the delicate fins in any way. You must dry these after cleaning them.

Next, gently remove the screws and the grill-cover, keeping in mind that the fans are still attached to them, and you may accidentally tear some wires away.

After that, hose out the fins and cover the motor with some waterproof material. And, since you've already dismantled your air conditioner so much, you might as well use this opportunity to grease the motor.

Finally, replace all of the parts in their proper locations, and you're done with a quick and easy air conditioner repair.

Switch on the power and let the machine run for a while to see if everything is in order. Place your hands on the two condenser-connected pipes.

Your unit is fine if one is warm and the other is cool. If this isn't the case, the refrigerant may need to be recharged. And this isn't something that can be accomplished on one's own.

If your air conditioner does not turn on automatically, you should try the procedures below.

To begin, make sure the thermostat is set to cold and the temperature is lower than the room temperature.

Second, a blown fuse, as well as a tripped breaker on the main panel, could be the cause.

Third, maintain the furnace's power switch and the exterior condenser switch both switched on.

Finally, make sure the 240-volt disconnect is not turned off. It's close to the compressor outside.

The actions outlined above are not difficult to follow and can be done at any time.

These basic do-it-yourself fixes can also be completed at your leisure.

Furthermore, they scrutinize your expenditures to a great extent.

This money will come in helpful if there is a big problem that requires professional assistance. However, if you follow these simple steps, you should be able to solve the problem.

If you still require assistance, you should contact the manufacturer. It's their product, and they'll be the most knowledgeable about it.

They can comfortably assist you through your repairing endeavor and even transmit some useful advice on this topic for future considerations, thanks to their experience and knowledge.

Fixing Your Portable Generator

So, you've taken your generator out of storage, filled the tank, and turned it on, but nothing happens.

Hopefully, you've discovered this prior to a power outage or camping trip.

This chapter will assist you in resolving some frequent issues.

Remove the spark plug before trying any repairs to avoid the unit accidentally starting while you are working on it.

Check the muffler exhaust for foreign debris if the generator won't start or stay started.

Once that's done, double-check the gas and oil levels to ensure they're correct. Finally, ensure that the spark plug is properly connected.

It's possible that the alternator is running at too low a speed if it fails to excite. Increase or decrease the rpm.

A faulty capacitor or windings, which must be replaced and tightened, might also cause this.

You may need to lower the rpms or replace the capacitance if the voltage is running high

with no load on the generator. If the voltage is low while there is no load, you may need to increase the rpms or replace the capacitor with one that has a greater rating.

Furthermore, for low voltage, you should examine your winding resistance and, if necessary, replace your rotary diodes.

If your voltage is stable without a load but declines when a modest load is added, you may need to raise your rpms or remove some of the load.

Your rotary diodes may also need to be replaced.

If the voltage dips when a heavy load is added, you'll need to lower the rpms or remove some of the load.

Finally, if the voltage varies, it could be due to faulty or filthy connections.

To overcome this problem, you may need to adjust the rpms.

Appliance Repair Tips

You can always find a local home repairman or expert who can get the job done well for your broken or damaged refrigerator, washing machine, or any other appliance.

While making the repair yourself can save you money, it can also be risky, particularly when working with electrical wiring. So, if you don't have the necessary knowledge and skills to be a DIYer, you should call a certified specialist whenever your equipment malfunctions.

Minor repairs, on the other hand, can be completed by almost anyone.

You may be a DIY home repairman by simply following a few basic safety rules.

When it comes to appliance maintenance, the following are some helpful hints:

1. Check to see if the appliance is still protected by the manufacturer's warranty.

Almost all home appliances come with a guarantee, but it is void if the equipment has already been opened by someone who is not authorized by the seller or the manufacturer.

2. Determine the nature of the appliance's problem and whether it requires replacement parts.

You can't start repairing the equipment if you don't know why it broke down in the first place. You'll also be able to see whether any parts of the appliance need to be replaced.

3. If this is your first time repairing an item, seek assistance from a certified professional.

A skilled appliance repairman will be able to identify the broken element much more quickly. If a replacement item is required, he also knows where to find it.

4. Take safety precautions.

The importance of safety in all you do cannot be overstated. So, make sure you're safe while you're repairing an appliance by disconnecting it and turning it off before you open or disassemble it.

5. Work in a well-lit and roomy environment.

Open the gadget in a well-lit environment. The space should also be large enough to accommodate the appliance, extra parts, and your tools.

6. Seek assistance from others.

If you're dealing with a large appliance, don't try to transport it by yourself. Always enlist the assistance of another person when lifting something heavy. This will prevent injury to you and the appliance from being shattered or broken.

7. Only use the proper tools.

Using the proper tools is one approach to complete the repair task successfully. Your unit should also have sufficient documentation.

Essential Tool for Appliance Repair

A repairman or technician who works on electrical items need specific instruments. An appliance repairman's most important instrument is a voltage or ohm meter.

This instrument calculates an appliance's resistance, which is a good indicator of how useful a domestic appliance is.

You can use an ohm meter to determine if an appliance is having an electrical problem, such as a power outage.

Furthermore, the ohm meter is quite useful in determining the source of an appliance's malfunction.

Most of the time, the electrical outlet is to blame for appliance damage. You'll be able to determine the voltage each outlet produces using the voltage meter.

If you want to be a DIY local home repairman, you'll need to follow the above appliance repair instructions and have the tools you'll need.

These pointers and tools are useful not just for inexperienced DIYers, but also for trained technicians with years of experience.

About The Author

AnThony Legins is a real estate coach and mentor with a passion to show you how to become successful in real estate investing.

He is a licensed real estate broker, licensed builder, developer, investor, and consultant who has been active in real estate since 2004. He is experienced in residential and commercial real estate and creative real estate financing.

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