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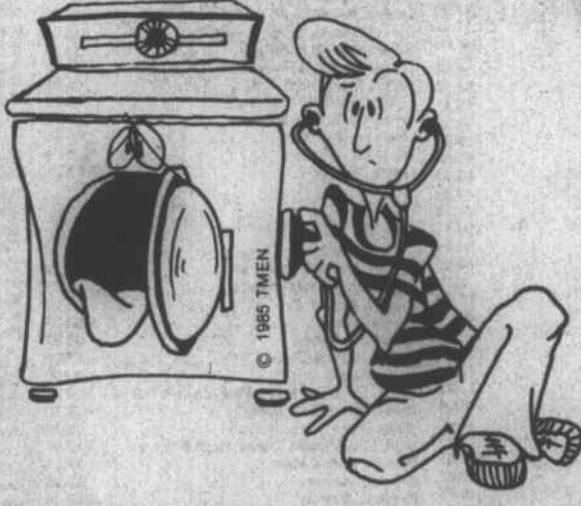
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TROUBLESHOOTING YOUR CLOTHES DRYER

Fuses and breakers: A dryer's heater runs on 220 volts and its motor on 110... an electric unit requires two good fuses or breakers to function properly. Check them both. (And when handling potentially dangerous electrical components on this checklist, be sure to cut power to the appliance when it's not needed to conduct a test!)



Thermostats: These temperature regulators are usually located near the dryer's fan housing or exhaust passageway. Look for round disks (probably two), each of which is attached to two wires. Tap the thermostats' housings lightly with a screwdriver... if a contact is simply stuck, that may jar it loose. If that doesn't work, test the thermostats with your continuity tester or multimeter. First, turn the appliance's timer on—to activate the thermostats—and then unplug the dryer and test the circuit on each thermostat. If no current registers, replace the failed part.

Heating element: To find this, look for coiled wire that runs through porcelain insulators. (Some models' heaters are completely enclosed in a metal housing, though; consult your owner's manual, if necessary.) Remove the lead wires and test the element with your light or meter. Again, if no continuity is indicated, you'll have to replace the element.

Pilot light: If this continually goes out—although you've lit it again and again, following the manufacturer's instructions— a new pilot latch-and-unlatch assembly is probably needed. This component is expensive (\$25 to \$45) and can be tricky to work with. You'd better call a service technician for this one.

Vent: Check the dryer's vent outlet—the place where the machine's exhaust hose feeds through a wall opening—to see if hot air is blowing forcefully through the exit. If not, the vent may be clogged with dust or lint; remove the obstruction. If the vent is clear, check the flexible exhaust tube for kinks, and straighten the hose, if necessary.

Lint screen: This small filter is usually located behind a trapdoor somewhere inside the dryer and must be cleaned before each load to allow maximum hot air circulation.

Door switch: This small knob, located inside the door, shuts the machine off when the door is opened, as a safety measure. To test it, depress the switch. If it clicks, the part is functioning properly. If it makes no sound, you'll have to install a new one. First, though, you need to remove the dryer's top to get at the defective switch. On many dryers, you can wedge a putty knife blade between the top of the front panel and the underside of the top panel and simply push a spring clip (there may be one at each corner) while lifting upward to raise the lid. On other models, you may have to remove retaining screws, too. Once you have the top up, just disconnect the door switch and replace it.

Drum obstruction: To see if accumulated lint or some object is preventing the drum from turning, remove the machine's front panel. In some models, this is simply a matter of releasing a spring clip or two (as described above) and pulling the panel toward you. In others, you may have to pry off a lower access panel first and then—to take off the main partition—remove two large springs (at the panel's bottom corners) and some retaining screws. Your particular dryer's front panel may support the drum, in which case you'll need to use some wood blocks to hold the drum up when you've taken off the front portion.

Now clear any lint or other obstructing material from around the drum (and its support rollers, if any). If no obstruction is visible, a drive belt may be broken. Here again, you may have to call a service technician to install a replacement.

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