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## How to fix kerosene heater

CC0/Pixabay/Pexels When the temperature dips, there's nothing like the comfort and warmth that a gas heater provides. Yet, anyone who has spent any time shopping for one understands that not all heaters are created equally. You want a heater that's designed to fit your needs, look great in your space and work within your lifestyle. This isn't an investment to rush into. Before you shell out your money and install one in your home, read this guide to make sure you're getting the best gas heater for your needs.**Know If You Need a Gas Heater**You might think that a gas heater could work well in your space, but is the heater made for it? As you research your options, you'll soon realize that gas heaters are categorized by their heating capacities. This is true for older models, secondhand gas heaters and those you buy new. While this has much to do with the size of a room they're designed to warm, the rating also measures how quickly they emit heat. Some gas heaters, most notably portable and unflued ones, don't work in a particularly small space. The reason? They produce emissions that could be harmful if there isn't enough air circulating in the area. If it's quick heating you're looking for, you'll need as large of a model as possible, but you need to make sure the space is large enough to disperse any off gassing. Take an inventory of your space and determine if a gas heater is ideal for it. If so, you're ready to compare specifics.**Determining the Right Size**Naturally, you want to get the biggest gas heater for your money, right? Not so fast. It's easy to spend a fortune on an oversized one, thinking it'll pump out hot air like a champ and work like a powerhouse. But don't forget the fact that it can also be a costly and unnecessary expense. Conversely, the opposite also holds true. In an effort to save a few bucks, you could opt for a model that's far too small for your needs. Peruse gas heater reviews and other resources to understand the kWh heat output rating of each model you're considering. As a rule of thumb, one kWh will heat a space of around 10 square meters. You'll also need to take into consideration the climate where you live, how tall your ceilings are, your home's current level of insulation and how much direct sunlight the area gets in order to understand what size of gas heater you require.**Choosing Between Flued or Portable**There are two main types of gas heaters you'll select between when choosing yours. One is a flued gas heater, and the other is a portable model. The former works via the installation of a flue that runs from your gas heater to the outdoors, allowing exhaust gas to travel outside of your home. While it can be an effective solution, it also requires construction, meaning that it's not ideal if you're renting or are in a space temporarily. As an alternative, you can go with a portable gas heater that's unflued. As implied, one benefit of this type is that you can move it from room to room, store it away when it's not in use and bring it with you when you move. Portable heaters also produce quicker, more direct heat than their flued counterparts. Moreover, though they may cost you more at the onset, they're cost-effective to run and can save you money on gas heater maintenance in the long-term. On the other hand, a flued gas heater is more efficient at removing harmful emissions. You can also use this type in spaces where portable models can't usually work, including bedrooms and bathrooms.**What to Look For in a Portable Heater**Whether you ultimately go with a flued option or a portable one is determined by your usage requirements. There are specific elements you should look for in each model. With a portable gas heater, look for one that operates via convection. These include a fan to speed up the movement of hot air and often come equipped with a remote control to help you regulate the temperature. The alternative is a radiant-convection model, which works in a similar manner but uses an exposed panel to emit heat in a room. These can be cheaper to buy but often don't have automated add-ons, such as thermostats. **What to Look For in a Flued Heater**If you're shopping for a flued gas heater, look for one that comes equipped with a thermostat, remote control, programmable timer and electronic ignition. These are often integrated with smart home apps to make them as effective and usable as possible. Depending on the model you select, you can expect to spend between \$400 and \$2,500 on your new gas heater. Take the time to research your options, understand your space limitations and engage the assistance of professional gas heater installation services as you move forward. Then, you'll be able to comfortably and confidently relax in your newly warm space. **MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET** When you're using a kerosene heater you might have to face some problems. And, as with any other device, you need to know how to deal with them properly to avoid any accidents. Whether you're having kerosene heater wick problems or trouble with the knobs – even an innocent-looking problem may prove to be disastrous with this type of heating device. So, let's go over the most common kerosene heater problems and how to fix them. **Kerosene heater uneven flame** The most common reason for this problem is the tar buildup on the wick. The way to fix this is by burning the wick "dry" in order to remove the tar and resin deposits off of it. This must always be done outdoors as it will produce a lot of smelly and harmful gases. To do this simply turn the wick up to the maximum height before it goes off. Alternatively, your wick may just be too old and irreparably dirty. In that case, you'll simply need to replace your wick with a new one. **Kerosene heater wick won't raise** The typical reason for that also lies in a dirty wick or a wick that's just too old to use. To fix this, simply follow the steps above to burn your wick "dry" or replace it altogether. **Kerosene heater will not shut off** If you can't turn the heater off or you can't lower the wick back down, you'll need to first find a way to safely smother the flame before you can deal with the wick. Either blow the flame out or use a wet blanket to smother it completely. After that and once the heater unit is completely cooled off, remove the burner unit and remove the wick with pliers. If it wasn't lowering properly, which is the most likely reason why the heater wouldn't turn off, the wick is probably too dirty. So, try burning it "dry" as it's removed from the heater and reinstall it back afterward. Or, if it's too far gone – simply replace it. **Kerosene heater won't light** If your kerosene heater refuses to ignite or is hard to ignite, there are several common reasons you might want to look for: The igniter on your heater is defective. Unfortunately, if that's the case, there isn't much you can do to fix it. Instead, the best course of action here is to simply replace the igniter with a new one. The prices may vary depending on the model and the brand but it shouldn't be too costly in any case. The batteries have run down. This is a much simpler problem we're used to from all other electronic devices we use on a daily basis. To fix this, simply get new batteries of the appropriate type and replace the old ones. The wick needs cleaning. A rather familiar problem at this point, if your wick is covered with tar and dirt it is normal for the heater to face troubles igniting it. To fix this, remove the wick and burn it dry before reinstalling it into the heater. If it's in too bad of a shape you might want to replace it with a new one. **Kerosene heater ignites but is slow to warm up** Again, this problem is most commonly caused by a dirty or older wick. Remove the wick from the heater and burn it dry outdoors before reinstalling it back in the device. If the wick can't be salvaged – replace it. **Kerosene heater gives off a strong odor** This is a problem with several possible causes but each of them needs to be solved as soon as possible as you don't want to risk inhaling too many unhealthy fumes. Here are the most probable issues: The heater is in an unventilated room. Even good kerosene heaters with quality kerosene fuel still need proper ventilation to avoid the buildup of unhealthy fumes in the air. Simply open a couple of windows to create some cross ventilation. You haven't sealed the bottom of the burner unit properly. To fix this you should move the burner left or right to make sure that it's properly sealed. You've set the wick too high or too low. This is a very common problem – the wick should always be set at the appropriate height of half an inch (1.3 cm). When your kerosene heater is burning you should keep an eye on the wick's height at least once every hour. The fuel you're burning isn't of good quality. Either your kerosene has gone bad or you're using another type of fuel that isn't meant for a kerosene heater. **Kerosene heater gives off soot and smoke** This happens most often when the wick is set too high. This is easily fixed as the wick simply needs to be readjusted to the right height, however, it needs to be done as soon as possible. Alternatively, it's also possible that the bottom of the burner assembly isn't properly sealed. Try turning it left or right to seal it well enough or open it and check for resin buildup that might prevent it from sealing off properly. **Kerosene heater ignites but goes out too soon** This will most commonly happen if you've run out of fuel or you have water in the fuel reservoir. To fix it you'll have to either add more fuel if there isn't enough or completely empty the tank and replace the wick if there's water inside the tank.

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