

Kerosene Heater Trouble Shooting Guide

This Trouble Shooting Guide can be used as a quick reference to aid you in detecting the causes and performing simple maintenance/repair procedures. It is not intended as a substitute for the actual owners manual, but can be used as a reference to perform simple repairs.

Trouble Shooting

Symptom	Cause	Cause	Problem	Step 1	Step 2
Does Not Burn Well	Tar deposit on wick	Did not wait 2 hours after replacing wick	Wick does not burn well, smells	Replace Wick	
		Use of wrong kerosene	Measure the specific gravity of kerosene	Wipe off kerosene inside fuel tank and storage container completely	Replace wick and get fresh K1 kerosene
		Kerosene container or fuel tank used to store other fuel	kerosene mixed with other fuel		
		Wick is too high or low	Produces soot, odor	Adjustment of wick control (clean burner tube)	
		Use of old kerosene (stored more than one season)	Kerosene has been oxidized	Wipe off kerosene inside fuel tank completely and storage container	Replace wick and get fresh K1 Kerosene
		Kerosene was stored in polyethelene container exposed to direct sunlight	Kerosene has been oxidized		
	Water mixed in fuel tank	Use of old kerosene	Completely drain kerosene & fuel tank	Wipe off kerosene inside fuel tank and storage container completely	Replace wick and get fresh K1 Kerosene
		Water Mixed in kerosene			
		Use of old fuel tank			
	Tar deposit in burner tube	Use of wrong kerosene	Clean burner tube and radiator metal	Replace wick	
		Wick too high			
	Appears not to be burning	Different from illustration in instruction book	Flame uneven (lower part of metal does not glow)	Illustration is just for reference, if no odor and it's warm there is no problem	Replace wick
		Radiator metal does not glow enough			
		Does not burn as before (not red hot)	Does not burn even replacing wick	Wipe off kerosene inside fuel tank and storage container completely	
Burns well for short time then goes out- small blue flame on top of wick	Completely drain kerosene & check fuel tank	Wipe off kerosene inside fuel tank and storage container completely	Replace wick and get fresh K1 kerosene		
Odor	Tar deposit on wick	See tar deposit above			
	New wick	Ignited without waiting 2 hours after replacing wick	Replace wick		
	Odor after ignition or extinction	Characteristic of kerosene heater			
	Kerosene on outside of fuel tank	After wiping off, still wet with kerosene	Fuel tank is leaking	Replace fuel tank	
Burns Too Much	Flame extends out of radiator	Wick too high	Adjust the wick 5-8 minutes after ignition		
	Flame uneven	Did not jog burner unit	Jog the burner tube & set it where it burns properly		

		Flame flares even after jogging burning unit	Tar deposit on burner Burner tube is deformed or is scratched	Clean burner unit & wick casing Repair or replace		
	Flares with smoke	Burner tube is not properly positioned on wick casing	Jog burner unit			
	Odor of gasoline and smokes	Use of wrong kerosene	Wipe off kerosene inside fuel tank and storage container completely			
Produces soot & smoke	Smoke, soot after ignition	Burner not positioned properly	Jog burner unit			
	8-15 minutes after ignition, soot and smoke	Wick too high	Adjust with wick control knob			
	Carbon deposit on radiator metal	Excessive carbon on upper radiator metal	Wick too high	Clean radiator metal and adjust wick with control knob		
		Small carbon spots	Jog burner unit and prevent spot fire			
Wick cannot be adjusted (high or low)	Wick control knob does not turn	Tar deposit on wicks	Replace wick and clean interior of fuel tank	Replace wick		
		No tar deposit on wicks	Water mixed in kerosene or other fuel	Wipe off kerosene inside fuel tank and storage container completely	Replace wick and get fresh K1 kerosene	
	Wick control knob turns too easily	Right after replacing wick	When replacing wick, forgot to replace knob screw	Replace wick		
Ignition coil does not ignite heater	Filament wire glows	Ignition knob has been pushed all the way	Release ignition knob slightly			
		Tar deposit on wick	Replace wick			
	Filament wire does not glow	Coil burned out	Replace coil			
		Ignition coil burned, deformed	Replace coil			
		Batteries dead	Replace batteries			
		Bad connection at switch	Adjust switch			
		Disconnected or broken wire	Connect or replace wire			
Kerosene leaks from fuel tank	Stops leaking when kerosene wiped off	Spilled fuel				
	Still leaks after wiping ooff	Fuel tank is leaking	Replace fuel tank			
Whole heater enveloped in flames	Use of gasoline	Abandon?				
	Soot deposit, slug on tube, red metal	Wick too high	The same problem as soot deposit has blugged chimney and flame flows back	Clean radiator metal		