

## LANGARA USED APPLIANCES

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# Troubleshooting Your Kitchen Stove

A kitchen stove has electric elements or gas burners that provide heat to the cooktop and oven. Most gas stoves also have some electric features (such as a clock and lights) and sometimes an electric pilot.

### FIRST THINGS FIRST ...

If your electric stove or the electrical parts of your gas stove don't work, first check the fuse or circuit breaker.

On a freestanding stove, be sure the power cord and terminal block aren't defective. Replace them if necessary.

### Unreliable Oven Temperature

Unreliable oven temperature is a common malfunction. The thermostat that maintains oven temperature is part of the oven control. If the thermostat doesn't work at all, replace the entire oven control. If it only needs calibrating, you may be able to adjust it.

Place an accurate oven thermometer in the center of a 350°F oven for 20 minutes, then check the reading. If it's more than 100° too high or too low, replace the oven control.

If the difference is 100° or less, remove the oven control knob and find the calibration screw (it's either inside the hollow control shaft or on a movable disc on the back of the knob). Tighten or loosen the calibration screw, adjusting until the temperature is correct.



# Electric Stoves

The cooktop heating elements of most electric stoves simply plug into a receptacle which allows easy cleaning or replacement. The same is true of the baking and broiling elements.

In some ovens, unscrew the brackets from the oven wall and then unplug the element. Pull gently forward and then remove the wires from the terminals. Finally, lift out the element. If an element isn't working, check for breaks or bubbles on the smooth surface of the element. Also check for corrosion on the terminals, as well as for broken connections and scorched wires or insulation near the element receptacle.

**Safety Tip:** Before making any electrical checks or repairs to your electric stove, disconnect the electrical power from your stove or, if necessary, from the entire circuit.

# Gas Stoves

Both on the cooktop or in the oven, a gas burner that isn't working could be an unlit pilot light. Pilot lights may be gas or electric (where a spark ignites the gas). Both types are easily re-lit (refer to your owner's manual). A gas pilot light that continually goes out needs cleaning and adjusting and perhaps gas company assistance.

## Keeping the Right Flame

The flame of a cooktop or oven burner should be a bright, steady blue. If it's not, you can change the air-gas ratio by adjusting the burner's air shutter.

To reach the shutter for a cooktop burner, lift off the cooktop. You can adjust an oven burner's shutter from the compartment under the oven.

If the flame is jumpy, loosen the screw securing the shutter and gradually close it until the flame burns properly.

If the flame is a mixture of blue, yellow, and white, increase the air supply by gradually opening the shutter.

When the flame is properly adjusted, tighten the screw.

**Caution:** Before checking any electrical parts, be sure to disconnect the electrical power from your stove.

# Troubleshooting Your Electric Stove

BELOW ARE LISTED THE MOST COMMON ELECTRIC KITCHEN STOVE MALFUNCTIONS AND TIPS TO REMEDY THE SITUATION ...

## Stove Isn't Working At All

### Check for:

No electrical power reaching the stove.

### Remedies:

Check the fuse box/circuit breaker.

If electrical power is present and the stove still isn't working, call a reputable electrician.

## A Top Element Doesn't Cook Well

### Check for:

Incorrectly-sized cooking pan.

Damaged element.

Defective wiring, thermostat, or selector switch.

Improperly set time.

Defective timer.

### Remedies:

Use flat-bottomed cooking pans that just cover the element.

Replace the element.

Replace the wiring, thermostat, or selector switch.

Set the time correctly.

Replace the timer.

## One of the Top Elements Doesn't Heat

### Check for:

Defective element, wiring, terminal block, or switch.

### Remedy:

Replace element, wiring, terminal block, or switch.

## You Can't Get Oven to Heat

Note: If the oven is in its self-cleaning cycle, the large amount of power required during self-cleaning may prevent the stove from working. Read your instruction manual and reset the self-cleaning feature.

### Check for:

Continuity of electrical parts to make sure the connections are secure.

Defective timer.

### Remedies:

Secure any loose connections of parts and replace any parts that are defective.

Replace the timer.

## Oven Overheats

### Check for:

Clogged vent.

### Remedy:

Clean the vent.

## Oven Doesn't Hold the Temperature You Set

### Check for:

- Damaged door gasket.
- Incorrectly calibrated thermostat.

### Remedies:

- Replace the gasket.
- Call Langara Used Appliances (604-21-8000) for service and assistance.

## Oven Lamp Doesn't Work

### Check for:

- Burned-out bulb.
- Defective switch or bulb socket wiring.

### Remedies:

- Replace the burned out bulb with the same type of oven bulb.
- Test the switch and bulb socket wiring and replace defective parts.

## Timer Doesn't Work

### Check for:

- Incorrectly set timer.
- Blown 15-amp fuse in the timer.
- Loose electrical connections.
- Damaged timer.

### Remedies:

- Reset the timer according to the instructions in your owner's manual.
- Replace the 15-amp fuse in the timer circuit.
- Make sure all electrical parts are securely connected.
- Replace the timer.

## Oven Door Won't Stay Shut

### Check for:

Defective door hinge or spring.

### Remedy:

Replace the door hinge or spring.

## Condensation Forms Inside Oven

### Check for:

Clogged vent.  
Improper door closure.  
Improper oven preheating process.

### Remedies:

Clean the vent. If there is an air filter, clean or replace it.  
Replace the gasket and/or door hinge springs.  
Preheat the oven with the door ajar.

## Accessory Receptacle on the Control Panel Doesn't Work

### Check for:

Blown fuse.  
Defective wiring.

### Remedies:

Replace the 15-amp fuse in the accessory circuit.  
Replace any damaged wires.

## Oven Stops Self-Cleaning

### Check for:

- Unlocked door.
- Defective door switch, wiring, or thermostat.

### Remedies:

- Lock the door and start the process over again.
- Call Langara Used Appliances (604-291-8000) for service and assistance.

## Troubleshooting Your Gas Stove

**BELOW ARE LISTED THE MOST COMMON GAS KITCHEN STOVE MALFUNCTIONS  
AND TIPSTO REMEDY THE SITUATION ...**

### Surface Burner Doesn't Light

#### Check for:

- Presence of the pilot light.
- Presence of gas (gas "on").

#### Remedies:

- Follow the instructions in your owner's manual for re-lighting the pilot.
- Call the gas company.

### Pilot Flame Doesn't Remain Lit

#### Check for:

- Clogged pilot port.
- Drafts near the stove.

#### Remedies:

- Use a small wire to clean the pilot port.
- Prevent drafts near the stove.

## You Smell Gas

### Check for:

- Presence of the pilot light.
- A leaking gas line.

### Remedies:

- Ventilate the room and re-light the pilot flame.
- Ventilate the room, extinguish all flames and don't turn on any electrical switches.
- Call the gas company immediately.

## Oven Stops Lighting

### Check for:

- Presence of the pilot light.
- Defective thermocouple.
- Presence of gas (gas "on").

### Remedies:

- Follow the instructions for re-lighting the oven pilot on your particular stove.
- Replace the thermocouple.
- Call the gas company.

## Oven Heats Poorly

### Check for:

- Incorrect mixture of gas and air.
- Defective safety thermocouple.

### Remedies:

- Call the gas company.
- Replace the thermocouple.



## **Things Bake Unevenly in Oven**

### **Check for:**

- Damaged door gasket.
- Clogged exhaust vent.
- Defective thermostat.

### **Remedies:**

- Replace the gasket.
- Clean the vent.
- Call the gas company.

## **Oven Overheats**

### **Check for:**

- Incorrect mixture of gas and air.

### **Remedy:**

- Call the gas company.

## **Burners Are Producing Soot**

### **Check for:**

- Incorrect mixture of gas and air.

### **Remedy:**

- Call the gas company.

## **Burner Is Burning Erratically**

### **Check for:**

- Clogging in the burner.
- Incorrect mixture of gas and air.

### **Remedies:**

- Clean the burner ports.
- Call the gas company.