

Appliance Repair Show Transcript—February 24, 2008

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2002 GE Profile Electric Range Not Heating Up To Correct Temperature

JOHN MCCULLOCH

And we'll start things out with Linda, in Brighton, on the Appliance Repair Show. Go ahead please, Linda.

LINDA

Hi, I have a [GE Profile](#), it's about six years old, and it's a [range](#). And [the oven isn't heating up properly](#). If you pre-heat it, it will beep as though you've reached the temperature; it's clearly not at the proper temperature.

JOHN SOWDEN

Is this [gas](#) or [electric](#)?

LINDA

It's electric.

JOHN SOWDEN

And you say when you set it to 350 degrees, the display reads 350 and it indicates that you've completed the initial pre-heat cycle?

LINDA

That's correct.

JOHN SOWDEN

And then you open it up and it's not warm in there?

LINDA

That's correct. And then, if you shut it off and hit pre-heat again, and press 350, it will read as though the oven is only at 179 degrees or something like that, so it's not making the temperature. Even though it beeps and it says it should be pre-heated, you open it up and it's clearly not hot.

JOHN SOWDEN

Do you get it to work on a second attempt?

LINDA

No.

JOHN SOWDEN

No?

LINDA

Not a second attempt either.

JOHN SOWDEN

So it just continually...

LINDA

That's right, it's the low temperature.

JOHN SOWDEN

So it does heat to some degree, then?

LINDA

It does heat to some degree, yes. In fact, I tried to make banana bread one time and I had that poor banana bread in for like two and a half hours! It doesn't usually take that long to cook banana bread.

JOHN SOWDEN

Yeah, that's a little excessive. Well, if it's [electric](#), the first thing is to try to see if the [bake and broil elements](#)—the bake element is the floor and the broil element is the ceiling—see if those are getting hot or warm.

LINDA

Okay.

JOHN SOWDEN

If they are, then they're good. Elements are kind of like a [light bulb](#); they're either good or bad.

LINDA

Sure.

JOHN SOWDEN

If they seem to be working properly as far as they warm up, then the problem is going to be either in the [oven sensor](#), which looks like half a pencil sticking out of the back wall of your oven cavity; and that senses the oven temperature and that tells the [control board](#) what temperature you have. You can check those with an [ohmmeter](#) (part # DM10T), and they should read around a thousand ohms at room temperature. And they change resistance according to temperature, which is why I say measure it at room temperature.

LINDA

A thousand ohms is normal?

JOHN SOWDEN

Yes, and if that checks alright, then you probably have a [control board](#) problem, where one of the relays is not kicking in. But normally, if that's the case, it's not going to say its read the temperature, which is why I lean more towards the [sensor](#) as being out of calibration and giving the oven cavity a false reading.

LINDA

How do you re-calibrate that?

JOHN SOWDEN

You just replace the sensor.

LINDA

Oh. Is that easy to do?

JOHN SOWDEN

Yes. Obviously, turn the power off first. There are two [screws](#) mounted to the back wall of the oven, and then you can normally pull it out through the front of the oven. There's a small hole that the wiring harness goes through, but at times the connector will get caught in the insulation and it's hard to get through. So sometimes they come out without a problem, but other times you have to haul the unit out, remove the back [panel](#) and gain access to it that way. But that is something that you can check, and it will give you a pretty good idea if it's within tolerance. And if that checks out then I would lean more toward the control circuits—that it's telling the board okay, here's the temperature, and the [board](#) is not reading it properly.

LINDA

Okay. Thanks so much for your help. I hope my banana bread will turn out better next time!

1998 Kenmore Dishwasher Giving Off a Burning Plastic Smell

JOHN MCCULLOCH

Here's Susan, in Brighton, on this Sunday morning on News Talk 760 WJR.

SUSAN

Hi there. I have a [Kenmore dishwasher](#), and when I run it, it goes through the cycle, and when it comes to the drying time it gets so hot that I have to turn it off. You could smell it; it smelled like something was burning. And when I opened it, you could just feel all this heat, it was like a real hot oven.

JOHN SOWDEN

Okay.

SUSAN

And the smell was like plastic or something burning.

JOHN SOWDEN

Well, your unit has an element along the bottom of the [dishwasher](#).

SUSAN

Yes.

JOHN SOWDEN

Make sure there isn't any plastic touching that [element](#).

SUSAN

No, there wasn't. I've done it twice now.

JOHN SOWDEN

Okay. Most often the smell during dry cycle is something small: a plastic part or a lot of caps for baby bottles, things of that nature, get flipped out of the basket you have them in and they melt on to the dishwasher [element](#). But if you don't see anything physically touching it, then I would suspect that you have a problem with the element either shorted, which would cause it to heat all the time and isn't a very common problem; or you've got a problem with the [circuit board](#) sending current to the element longer than it should be. Most will have a [cut-out thermostat](#) mounted to the underside of the [dishwasher](#). In fact, normally there are two: one will cycle the element on and off and the other is a failsafe, if it gets too hot it just cuts it off. So it could be that something has failed in the electrical system and it's constantly supplying power to the unit for dry cycle, because it should at a certain temperature, normally around one hundred and fifty degrees or so, it should cycle off.

SUSAN

Now, I just do a few things. I'm by myself, so there's not a lot in there and I don't use it often. But it was like I thought the house was burning up or something, it smelled so bad. Would it pay to have a man come out here, or should I just get a new one?

JOHN SOWDEN

Well, if it's just a matter of an [element](#) has shorted or a [thermostat](#) or something, it shouldn't be too large a repair. If it's something in the control circuit, the relay for the

element is sticking and you need a new [circuit board](#), then you're probably looking at a hundred bucks for just the parts, and from there it's labor. How old is the unit?

SUSAN

It's probably ten or twelve years old, but I don't use it much. But it's old.

JOHN SOWDEN

Yeah, and if the [racks](#) are in good shape and everything else is all right with the machine, just have somebody come out and for a nominal fee you can get an opinion of what's wrong and then you can make your decision based on that.

SUSAN

Is there somebody in this area you could recommend?

JOHN SOWDEN

Normally, I recommend that you go with somebody who is familiar with the unit, meaning that they service it under warranty or somebody reputable in your area. And generally word of mouth is the best thing. If you have a neighbor who has been happy with someone in that area, that's the best way to tell.

SUSAN

Well, thank you very much.

Bosch Dishwasher That's Not Draining Properly Due to Candle Wax Buildup

JOHN MCCULLOCH

And we have a call that sounds familiar.

JOHN SOWDEN

Let's look into this and see if there are any updates here.

JOHN MCCULLOCH

Tim, in Saint Clair, is calling with a problem with candle wax in the [dishwasher](#), here on the Appliance Repair Show. Go ahead please, Tim.

TIM

Good morning. I took apart the [drain pump](#) side of the [dishwasher](#) and cleared some wax and some stuff out of there.

JOHN SOWDEN

Are you the same Tim we spoke to last week?

TIM

Yes.

JOHN SOWDEN

Okay. So what did you find in this?

TIM

Well, I found some chunks of wax that were deposited in the [hoses](#) and in the mechanism on the side of the machine where water pumps up and through the little [check valve](#).

JOHN SOWDEN

Right.

TIM

And it goes out. So I cleared all the wax out of there. I pulled the [impeller](#) and [motor unit](#) out of the [pump](#).

JOHN SOWDEN

Out of the drain pump or the main [circulating pump](#)?

TIM

The drain pump.

JOHN SOWDEN

Okay.

TIM

And something I did discover was the magnet that's attached internally to the [impeller](#), and then the windings around the outside of the [pump](#) through the plastic. There was water inside of that magnet area, and I don't know if that was supposed to be there or not.

JOHN SOWDEN

On the drain pump?

TIM

Yes.

JOHN SOWDEN

So it was leaking through the housing of the [drain pump](#)?

TIM

Well, it wasn't actually leaking. The [impeller](#) is there, and then there's a large flange that locks into the base of the whole [dishwasher](#) unit.

JOHN SOWDEN

Yeah, it's just a twist-out.

TIM

Correct.

JOHN SOWDEN

You've got the [impeller](#) sticking out and then there's an [o-ring](#) and then you just turn and twist the [drain pump assembly](#), or at least the working parts, out of the housing.

TIM

Correct. And behind that, on the outside of the whole [pump](#) area that extends out maybe a couple inches, there's a one-inch diameter tube that houses a magnet, and the shaft that the [impeller](#) spins on, and then the windings slip over that. But inside of that tube area behind the impeller was water and I don't know if that's to lubricate it or if that should be dry in there. I don't know.

JOHN SOWDEN

You shouldn't have any water outside the actual sealed housing. If it's internal, then I wouldn't suspect it being an issue.

TIM

Okay.

JOHN SOWDEN

You're going to have some water in there, and it is to keep it wet in there.

TIM

Okay. That's what I thought. Because there weren't any seals in there to dry that area up, it was just there.

JOHN SOWDEN

So, is it working now?

TIM

No.

JOHN SOWDEN

We're still having issues?

TIM

[It still doesn't want to drain](#). So what do I look at next?

JOHN SOWDEN

So you've removed the drain pump and cleaned out the drain housing. Now when it goes to drain, does the drain pump fire up, does it turn on?

TIM

When I start the unit, you can hear it typically pumps out a little bit of water. It's very quiet at that point, so if the [drain pump](#) is going bad, I wouldn't know.

JOHN SOWDEN

So it doesn't drain at all, or partially?

TIM

It drains partially, but there's probably an inch of water left in the machine above that screen area.

JOHN SOWDEN

Yeah, so it's not draining properly. The only other thing I can suggest at this time is tearing apart the actual [pump housing](#), all that good stuff. You might still have a restriction. Are all the screens clear?

TIM

All the screens are clear, yes.

JOHN SOWDEN

So there's nothing holding that water in there?

TIM

No. I tried to take the [main pump](#) out, and it almost appears that the [bottom panel](#) of the [dishwasher](#) has to be removed.

JOHN SOWDEN

Yes. The beauty of having the tall tub [dishwashers](#) these days is everything is tucked very tightly on the underside of the unit, and some of the newer units coming out today, you have to pull it out to do anything. To change any component you have to remove it. So, it's always good to have the flexible [fill hoses](#), the stainless steel jobs, when you hook up the water supply as well as the [drain hoses](#); anything you can do to make it easier to disconnect and pull it out. Because they're giving you more room internally in the [dishwasher](#) these days, the mechanisms that drive the water have to go somewhere, so they sit almost on the floor. In the good old days, you could take the [lower panel](#) off and reach in there and perform most repairs either through the inside of the unit or from the underside. Very rarely did you have to pull them out. So it sounds to me like you've got a restriction somewhere, if the [drain motor](#) is turning. When you popped the drain motor and looked at the [impeller](#), were there any breaks or cracks? Were all the blades there?

TIM

Yes, they were. That portion was pretty clean. It was the area beyond the [pump](#), on the way out, that had wax buildup in it.

JOHN SOWDEN

And this drains into your [disposal](#), in an [air gap](#) (part # 300096)?

TIM

Correct, its right into the disposal.

JOHN SOWDEN

And did you check that to make sure that that's clear, too?

TIM

Yes.

JOHN SOWDEN

It sounds like you have a restriction somewhere, and as you pointed out, it's going to be a matter of tearing the whole unit apart at this point and trying to find out where it is. If you're pretty sure that the [drain pump](#) is running and the [impellers](#) are okay, then it's either not allowing it to get out through the [drain hose](#) to the [disposal](#), or the water coming to the drain pump inside the [dishwasher](#) is restricted. In this case, I wish I could be more help, but this is kind of a rare problem. You don't run into it very often, so it really is a seek and destroy type of a mission here. You just have to get in there and find where it is restricted. It could be in the [pump housing](#), there are a lot of smaller ports in there that it doesn't take much to plug it up.

TIM

Right. Is there a way to test that [drain pump](#) to make sure it's operating?

JOHN SOWDEN

There are some ways you can cheat it. If it's a one hundred and ten volt pump, you can hook up a separate power source to it, as long as water is getting to it. You don't normally want to run it dry outside the machine, because again it can ruin the [seals](#) for the [pump assembly](#). Normally, you can hear it if you sit and monitor it, you can hear it engage if you're down there listening to it.

TIM

Okay.

JOHN SOWDEN

Try it that way.

TIM

I'll try it that way first with the [lower plate](#) off so I can make sure I hear it.

JOHN SOWDEN

The newer machines are really great because they're so quiet, but when it comes time to diagnose them sometimes you have to sit there and really pay attention, because they don't make a lot of noise, which is a good thing. Well, you've got another project this weekend, Tim!

TIM

Yeah, I started yesterday. I'll call you next week and update you.

Microwave Not Heating but Everything Else is Working

JOHN MCCULLOCH

Let's go out to Kent, Ohio, with a call from Jim here on the Appliance Repair Show. Go ahead please, Jim.

JIM

We've got a [microwave](#) and [everything seems to work except it won't heat up](#).

JOHN SOWDEN

So you program it and all that good stuff and it counts down but doesn't heat?

JIM

It does everything. I followed the troubleshooting [manual](#). I disconnected the plug and reconnected it. I set the time and the date, and it sounds like it's working fine, except the part that heats up doesn't heat up.

JOHN SOWDEN

Does it make any unusual noises?

JIM

No, not that I can hear. It sounds like it should heat up just like it always does. My son has taken it apart. He's pretty good at that stuff and he says that everything seems to be working. It's just that...is there a microwave tube in there?

JOHN SOWDEN

Yeah, there are several components in there. Disassembly of a [microwave](#) is something we don't normally recommend because in most units there's a [capacitor](#) in there that actually stores voltage. So if you do not discharge the capacitor before you get working on it, you can get a really nasty shock.

JIM

Yeah, I see the capacitor.

JOHN SOWDEN

Normally, you want to short across the terminals on that with a large resistor. Again, it's something that, it looks pretty innocent there, but it bites really hard.

JIM

Yeah.

JOHN SOWDEN

From there, if it's counting down and not heating, it could be one of several things. It could be something as easy as a [door switch](#), depending on how the unit is wired. If the door switch has failed, it can cause that situation. If all that's good, then the three most common components to your unit are the [capacitor](#), the diode, and then the mag tube.

JIM

The diode is the thing that looks like a [fuse](#)?

JOHN SOWDEN

Yes. And basically, you need a [nine-volt meter](#) (part # DM10T) to check that, to get an accurate reading on that. That's basically what they use to cheat the electrical circuit to generate a dirty DC voltage to drive the mag tube. The mag tube could be open and sometimes it's process of elimination. If the transformer checks good and the diode is all right then you should replace the mag tube just by process of elimination. You can check them with an [ohmmeter](#) (part # DM10T); most of them will read about one ohm, so it's real low resistance.

JIM

Okay.

JOHN SOWDEN

Most often it's a situation where you might not be getting power to the high voltage, which would be in the [control board](#). So again, I have a hard time giving advice on working on [microwaves](#) because making high voltage checks on these things are pretty...

JIM

Yeah. See, he's pretty good at that.

JOHN SOWDEN

Basically, when you turn the unit on to cook, it supplies current to the transformer, and you can split the system and say, do I have current there? If you do, then you know that the unit has a failure in the high voltage system, which are the diode, [capacitor](#), possibly the transformer and the mag tube. If not, then it's in the control circuit, where the [circuit board](#) itself is not sending the current to the high voltage system.

JIM

If we can isolate the problem, we can get repair parts at this [RepairClinic.com](#)?

JOHN SOWDEN

You certainly can! You can log in, put the [model number](#) into our system, and you can see a picture of all the common parts for your unit. And then, you can always order them and have them shipped right to your door.

JIM

Good. I think you've been very helpful. We're going to try to run this down and hopefully I won't have to call you next week.

1992 GE Gas Dryer Leaving Black Marks on Clothes

JOHN MCCULLOCH

And we'll start now this segment with a question on a [GE gas dryer](#), from Carolyn in Port Clinton, Ohio, on the Appliance Repair Show.

CAROLYN

[Everything comes out of my dryer with black marks on the corner](#). Do you have any idea what would cause that?

JOHN SOWDEN

Yeah, your [dryer](#) is what, about ten or fifteen years old?

CAROLYN

Yes, it's a 1992.

JOHN SOWDEN

Okay. Well, first of all you need to make sure it's not coming from the [washer](#), and it is coming from the [dryer](#). So, you need to inspect the clothes as they come out of the washer, because a lot of times since the last leg of the trip in the laundry is the dryer, if they come out with marks on them, it's assumed that it's in the dryer. So, I would make sure that you inspect the laundry before you put it in there.

CAROLYN

Okay.

JOHN SOWDEN

If you're sure it's coming from the [dryer](#), more than likely if you're getting black spots on it, it's probably that the [front glides](#) are worn. There's a set of two plastic pads that are mounted on a [felt strip](#) that the front of the drum rides on. Over time, they can deteriorate and put some black marks onto the front of the drum area.

CAROLYN

Okay....

JOHN SOWDEN

Does it make any unusual noises while it's running?

CAROLYN

No, and I had the [GE](#) guy come out a long time ago, probably eight years ago, because this has been an ongoing problem. And when my husband looked, it would always be on the tips of the collars of his white shirts. And every week I would scrub to get that off, and then put the shirts in the dryer and it would happen again! And he told me, he said, you're overloading it! I said, I couldn't believe that, because I really don't think I'm overloading it, and my collars all have marks on the corners. I don't even bother to try to get that off anymore because it's a constant problem.

JOHN SOWDEN

It's something that as you use the unit, and it's getting little spots in a certain area, it would tell me that it's being pinched somewhere, and normally that's in the front of the drum, because the back of the drum is sealed up. The best thing you can do is grab a

flashlight and open up the dryer door and have a look in there and see if you can determine where it's coming from. At times this can be caused from things broken in the dryer such as pens and things of that nature, but normally that's pretty evident after a period of time. So if it's just in the corners of things, then it's probably being trapped between the [front panel](#) and the [front glide](#) there as you open the door. You have to remove the front panel of the dryer in order to make a visual inspection and determine if that is for sure, if that's happening. But the good news is you can go to our website, www.RepairClinic.com, and go to the "[Contact Us](#)" section, put in the [model number](#) of your unit and answer the questions. So this is a 1992 [GE dryer](#), and we have instructions on how to tear that apart for you. There are documents that you can access; we have several that will tell you how to get at a lot of the major components for your unit. So you can read those and/or print them out. Remove the [front panel](#), obviously after you unplug it, and see if those [front glides](#) are worn out. You normally see a lot of black dust around that area if that's the case.

CAROLYN

Got it. Thank you so much.

Sub Zero Refrigerator/Freezer With Lights Not Working in Refrigerator Section

JOHN MCCULLOCH

Dave, in Grosse Pointe, has a [Sub Zero refrigerator](#) question, here on the Appliance Repair Show. Go ahead please, Dave.

DAVE

The lights in the upper part of my [Sub Zero](#) are not working, so I replaced all four of the long [refrigerator bulbs](#), and it didn't fix the problem. The freezer lights work just fine. I started to take off the lighting housing, and it looks like it's wired right back into the fridge. So I don't know if I should bite the bullet and call the Sub Zero repair guy or if you could guide me as to what I should do.

JOHN SOWDEN

Is this a [side by side](#), [freezer on top](#) or [freezer on bottom](#), or what?

DAVE

Freezer on the bottom, refrigerator on the top.

JOHN SOWDEN

Okay. And the refrigerator [lights](#) aren't working?

DAVE

Correct.

JOHN SOWDEN

And you've got a big plastic cover in the ceiling in the [refrigerator](#)?

DAVE

Right and I've taken that cover off and changed all four of the [bulbs](#) in there.

JOHN SOWDEN

Once you remove the cover, if you look at that, the [lights](#) in that refrigerator are wired through a thermal fuse.

DAVE

Okay.

JOHN SOWDEN

And what they do is, if for some reason you leave those lights on by either having the door open or a switch failure, which would cause them to stay on, rather than heat up your refrigerator and discolor that nice plastic [shield](#), it will switch the lights off.

DAVE

Okay.

JOHN SOWDEN

So I would start by checking the small thermal disk that's on that wiring for the [lights](#). If that's all right then I would lean more towards the [door switches](#), which on most of them, if you open the door and look up they're going to be in the center of the ceiling where the door closes on it.

DAVE

I've seen that.

JOHN SOWDEN

So it's either the [switch](#) has failed...but if the switch has failed to be on all the time, rather than the light staying on forever, then take out this thermal protector. It doesn't happen very often, but that's is what it's there for and it's UL required.

DAVE

Okay, great. Thank you so much.

2006 Kenmore Side-by-Side Refrigerator Icemaker Not Producing Ice But Will Dispense Water

JOHN MCCULLOCH

Ted, in Ferndale, has a question on a [Kenmore side by side](#) here on the Appliance Repair Show. Go ahead please.

TED

Its two years old, and [it quit making ice](#), and it's not getting any water up to the cube tray, but we have water in the water side of this.

JOHN SOWDEN

It's not making any ice, whatsoever?

TED

None.

JOHN SOWDEN

Okay. And is the [tube](#) that goes from the [icemaker](#) to the [water valve](#) clear? Is there an ice buildup in there, do you know?

TED

No, I don't. It looks all clear, but you can't tell inside; that [tube](#) only comes out of the [refrigerator](#) by a little over on the edge.

JOHN SOWDEN

Right. Well, do you have this on a [filter](#) of any variety?

TED

Yes, it has a filter.

JOHN SOWDEN

Do you have it on a reverse osmosis system, by chance?

TED

No, not that I know of, because it had been working. Now it needs to be replaced because it says, "Replace filter".

JOHN SOWDEN

Yeah! Well, that could be part of the problem because if the [filter](#) is restricted then you're going to have low water pressure and that could cause the unit to not want to fill. Or, it could reduce the water pressure to a point where the [water valve](#) does not shut off properly, and then you get an ice buildup in that [tube](#). So I would start by inspecting that and seeing if there's an ice buildup there, if you have a physical ice restriction. Certainly replace the [water filter](#). It really depends on how it's plumbed in your [refrigerator](#). Most these days will filter the water for the [ice maker](#) and the ice and water in the door, so it comes in and goes through the filter, and then through the valve. Others, it will go to the valve, and then through the [filter](#), then back to the [water valve](#) for your [icemaker](#) and ice and water in the door. They use two different ones; it just depends on your unit. But it sounds like a water supply problem. Is this the original filter in the unit?

TED

Oh no, this is the third one.

JOHN SOWDEN

And you're getting a change filter signal?

TED
Yes.

JOHN SOWDEN

I would start there, but once you do that, if it still doesn't work then I would go ahead and inspect the [tubing](#) that goes to the [icemaker](#) itself and see if it's not frozen. To see if the freezer temperatures and everything else are working in the icemaker, you can take a Dixie cup and fill up the icemaker mold and three or four hours later it should dump out.

TED
Oh.

JOHN SOWDEN

If it does that, then you know that the [icemaker](#) is doing what it's supposed to be doing as far as cycling. It's possible it's not telling the [water valve](#) to turn on for the seven seconds it takes to fill it, but that's not a real common problem. So that's an easy way to do it, just add a little water and don't overfill it. Like I said, a small Dixie cup of water and a small mirror if you don't want to pull the icemaker out, and if it dumps the cubes out, then normally the freezer temperature is okay, the [icemaker](#) is sensing when it's time to dump. Then, I would start chasing the water supply problem.

TED
Okay. Thanks very much.

1983 GE Pot Scrubber Dishwasher Leaking from Underneath

JOHN MCCULLOCH

Gary in Pinckney, you're next here on the Appliance Repair Show. Go ahead please.

GARY

I've got a [dishwasher](#), vintage probably, from the year the house was built: a [GE Pot Scrubber 1000](#) with temperature sensor.

JOHN SOWDEN

What vintage would that be?

GARY

Oh, I want to say twenty five years old, maybe. I think it came with the house.

JOHN SOWDEN

Alright.

GARY

Every time we use it, [it seems to have a slow leak](#) down into the basement. I'm wondering if it's worthwhile to tear it out and try to replace [seals](#), troubleshoot it, or just put it out to the curb for big trash pick up day.

JOHN SOWDEN

Has it gotten louder over time?

GARY

I wouldn't say louder, no.

JOHN SOWDEN

Most often, if it's leaking down to the basement, it's coming from under the machine. It could be coming from the door area, but given the vintage that you describe to the machine, I would suspect that the [motor seal](#) has failed. If you remove the [lower panel](#), grab a flashlight, and look for where the plastic body of the pump meets the metal portion of the [pump](#) or the [motor](#), then you'll probably see where it's been leaking for quite some time.

GARY

Okay.

JOHN SOWDEN

And if that's the case, new [motor pump assemblies](#) I think are around one hundred and thirty to one hundred and fifty dollars, if you do it yourself.

GARY

Yeah.

JOHN SOWDEN

So at that point it's time to evaluate the [racks](#), all the other things that can deteriorate. The reason why I mention racks is they're expensive. Normally, a rack is between eighty and one hundred and twenty bucks, and if you need a pair of racks and a new [motor assembly](#), then yes, it's time to jack it up and put a new one in underneath it.

GARY

Yeah, I've looked underneath and took out the bottom screen and the dripping seemed to be centrally located around the motor.

JOHN SOWDEN

Yes, and it could be a [hose](#) or something that's worn through, but boy, at twenty five years and from what you're describing the most common thing found for that scenario would be that the [motor pump assembly](#) is leaking. They do make a rebuild kit if you want to save a few bucks and keep it going. Those work out pretty well, but the problem you run into is if it's been leaking for a long period of time, the motor shaft is probably pretty rusted, and that doesn't hold up very well.

GARY

Sounds like the practical thing to do is just upgrade and move on.

JOHN SOWDEN

Upgrade, move on to something a little more energy efficient, less water usage, all that good stuff.

1979 Maytag Refrigerator, Model RSD22A, Fan Motor Was Replaced and Now Keeps Getting Louder

GARY

Now, the pressure comes when I do that, against the old refrigerator, his brother.

JOHN SOWDEN

Ah.

GARY

I've already replaced the [fan motor](#) once, and that just keeps getting louder and louder. Is that refrigerator going to cough on me about when it's ninety degrees out, you think?

JOHN SOWDEN

I've got a vintage [Maytag](#) of the same style. Replacing a [fan motor](#) and things like that are common—things fail, especially over twenty-five years. As long as you keep the condenser clean and the [seals](#) seal well so you're not putting an extensive load on it. But the other thing is that, you're also looking at energy saving. The stuff today, even though it runs a lot more, it actually saves energy, because most usage of energy is used in the first thirty seconds of startup.

GARY

This would be a model [RSD22A](#), so I'm thinking...they call came in the house, I think.

JOHN SOWDEN

Well, color sometimes can determine that.

GARY

Well, it's forest gold or something cream...

JOHN SOWDEN

Harvest wheat?

GARY

Not the harvest, the cream colored.

JOHN SOWDEN

Oh, almond.

GARY

Yes.

JOHN SOWDEN

Now they have a different shade of that color, called biscuit. It looks nice, but sometimes when I mention that, it's because the vast majority, I think eighty percent of appliances are all white. So, if you get into the browns and the greens and things of that nature, you can generally tell the vintage of it that way.

GARY

Yeah, these three appliances, the [stove](#), the [dishwasher](#) and the [refrigerator](#) were probably put in the house in 1979.

JOHN SOWDEN

Well, maybe you can get a deal on a whole kitchen. That might not be a bad idea, if you can get a package deal.

GARY

Yeah. So the [refrigerator](#): as long as it's running, then don't worry about it?

JOHN SOWDEN

Yeah. If it's not broke, don't fix it.