

Refrigerator Problem on Gas

Problem: Hi Howard, I need your help. I attended your seminars in Gillette and found them very helpful. When we left Gillette, we headed for Silverton, Colorado for a week. My refrigerator (in my 1988 Airstream) would not get cold so I did as you suggested, I took out the orifice and soaked it in alcohol for 30 minutes and then blew it out with my air compressor. I had ice in the freezer that night and ice in my radishes in the refrigerator the next morning. After I got home, I stored my rig for 3 weeks and left again for New Mexico. This time I could not get my refrigerator to light. On the road, I stopped and took out the orifice and blew it out and the refrigerator then lit. The next 2 days only the freezer would get cold and freeze ice. The refrigerator would not get below 58 degrees. (The outside temperature never got above 80 degrees) It stayed that way until we moved locations and plugged into electricity and then everything worked fine.

What should I do to get the refrigerator to be cold again on propane?

Answer: I assume if you clean the jet again it will work fine. My guess is you have some spiders or other bugs living in your complete burner assembly. It is also possible that your combustion chamber has some bug nests or excess carbon. Remove the entire burner assembly and soak it. In addition, blow out the gas feed line (after shutting off the fridge input gas valve.) Finally, run a brush through the combustion chamber to make sure it is clean.

Results: Hi Howard I did all you told me too and when I disconnected the propane line, I got about a cup of oil out of it. After cleaning the jet again, the fridge worked fine on gas and electric.

Summary: Evidently, what had clogged the jet was an oil film rather than the carbon deposits that usually stop the gas flow. Having oil in the propane tank is not that unusual, especially when we get our tanks filled at a small out of the way station. It is similar to getting bad gas or diesel. Periodically, it is a good idea, to have the filling station purge the propane tanks prior to filling them. The procedure for getting oil out of the tank is to shut off the tank, open the fridge line and then turn on the gas for a few seconds so it will push any oil out.