

Wallas maintenance: Starting a unit with a stuck fuel pump.

Wallas stoves and heaters all share some mechanical features and some operational characteristics. Understanding one important feature can help you solve occasional trouble when starting, particularly after the system has sat unused for a long period. Boats left over the winter in very cold conditions have this problem most often, but can happen at almost any temperature.

All Wallas products like to be exercised on a regular basis, by starting them once every couple months. The reason is simple. Fuel can harden inside the fuel pipes and fuel pump during dormant periods, becoming impossible to pump, causing the start cycle to fail.

Here is an excellent solution in a great many cases:

Get yourself a hand held hair dryer (NOT an industrial heat gun!):

Using the dryer, heat up the fuel pump, the fitting on the top of the fuel pump and the entire copper fuel pipe, running all the way to the combustion chamber. Keep the dryer nozzle 5 to 6 inches away from the components and continue the heating process for a full five minutes, concentrating mostly on the fuel pump, but including the full length of the copper fuel pipe.



This process should eventually melt any hardened fuels in the system, and clear any bad kerosene you may have introduced. Once you have the whole system warmed up, try starting the device using your normal process, making sure it has good quality fuel and a well charged starting system voltage.

If the fuel pump clicks and no fuel moves (watch for bubbles in the clear plastic line) after trying this procedure, try giving the fuel pump inlet elbow a couple of sharp raps with a mid-sized end wrench (abt. 5/8") to try and break the pump free. Most times, if the problem is hardened fuel, the heating process will do the trick.

Once the new fuel starts flowing and the system runs for you, keep it running for a full hour. The new fuel should act as a solvent, cleaning any residual from the system.

On the next page are images showing two of our most popular products and illustrating the locations of the parts to be heated.

