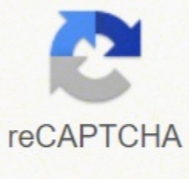




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Quadrafire mt vernon vacuum switch error

Image not available forColor: To view this video download Flash Player I decided to switch from wood heat to a pellet stove. I took out the Kuma wood classic in exchange for a 2017 Quadrafire Mt Vernon on Craigslist for \$1500. Looks to have not much use. Anyway, I installed it and turned it on, set it to manual. Start up SS Low SS medium Then Vacuum SW error and it starts to power off. Does this Every time So, I bypassed the switch and it works fine. I took the vacuum switch off and measured ohms. If I very gently suck on the tube...like hard let any suction, the switch turns on and when I very gently blow, the switch turns off. Don't know if the vacuum switch is bad but it appears to function. the vacuum tube is clear, the nipple that it connects to on the feed tube is clear. The gaskets on both the ash pan and the glass door appear to seal very well. Both are very tight. It's driving me crazy. I feel like I got snookered by the seller but I'm determined to fix it myself and enjoy not splitting and stacking 6+ cords of wood each year. How can I fix this vacuum switch problem? what should I test next? I don't want to call out a technician if I can help it because that will just defeat the purchase of saving money by purchasing a used stove. Pull the combustion blower and clean and inspect the fan blades, blow out the motor frame/housing with compressed air and lube it if possible. You may need a new gasket. Go to the quad site and dl the manual and do the annual cleaning on it. See if that helps with the vacuum issue. Toggle signature Reactions: agforest I thoroughly cleaned the combustion blower early this morning. With a tooth brush and I vacuumed out all the sooty material in the passageway leading to the blower. The gasket is in great condition. Same vac sw error. I do smell some of the smoke from the pellet combustion. Not much but I smell it. I don't see any smoke. Is this normal? Anyway, I read the manual about cleaning and will clean some more but the unit is extremely clean as it stands. What should I try next? Is it possible that the vacuum switch could be bad? I might order one but I suspect that once I swap the parts I'll have the same issue. I think that I'm going to take the fire pot out after work today and inspect that gasket and replace if necessary. I'm also going to order new gaskets for the front door and ash pan and replace with the high temp black gasket sealer on back. Can't hurt huh? I'm going to get the air compressor and scrape/blow out/shop vac everything I can stand tonight. Another thought: the exhaust pipe I installed is new. It goes straight out of the back of the stove, through the wall, and up 3' out of the clean out T. It's the \$200 kit from Lowe's. I used red RTV on the portions of pipe (adapter/6"/12" piece that exits the stove. I slipped that stuff inside and outside very liberally. Can the draft, or lack there of when starting the stove cause vacuum issues? No, as the exhaust fan causes the draft, and the vacuum in the firebox, that shuts the vac switch connection, allowing power to the auger. That new of stove, shouldn't need a door gasket. You can do the dollar bill test and see how good it is. Stick a bill in door and close it. See how hard it is to pull bill. Also, if there is no fire stain past area on door that hits gasket, it is good. One major area people miss when cleaning their stoves, is the two openings at bottom of heat exchanger fins. The area between them is open. kap Toggle signature Quadra Fire service tech Santa Fe (2005) AE (2006) Reactions: agforest The door gasket failed the dollar bill test and the ash pan door failed as well. I bought new gaskets at Andy's Heating and Cooling in Coeur d'Alene and I just replaced both gaskets and am waiting for the stove to turn on. I also ordered a new vacuum switch just so I'd have one. I hope that I can reply that it works! Reactions: Ssyko SOLVED The vacuum switch is indeed bad. When I blow into it and break the circuit and then plug the hose in, there is a vacuum that immediately completes the circuit. BUT if the switch is in a certain position, it turns off. But if flat on either side, and plug it in, the vacuum pulls the circuit closed and it works. So, I have the vacuum switch hanging in a position where it works and so far no error codes for an hour!! The new vacuum switch in order. I'll update when I get it in and install it. Btw, the door seals were pretty tight but not water tight like a frogs butt so replacing the seals probably didn't hurt. Reactions: Ssyko Glad you got it figured out and are up and running. Stay warm. kap Toggle signature Quadra Fire service tech Santa Fe (2005) AE (2006) Reactions: agforest 11-05-2013, 10:10 PM #1 Need help in diagnosing vacuum switch errors. Question on the port that the vacuum hose connects to from the vacuum switch to the feed tube. I have the older model Mt. vernon stove in my basement, and the port on the feed tube is clearly open, this is where the vacuum hose from the vacuum switch connects too. You can stick a small screwdriver through the hole with nothing stopping it. I have another newer Mt. Vernon AE stove upstairs, constantly giving me vacuum switch errors. I have tested by bypassing the vacuum switch and the stove functions normally. When checking the port to the feed tube, is that hole suppose to be fully open or is there some type of a one way air valve in that port. I cannot pass a paper clip through this hole, it is blocked. When I attempt to blow air through it, very little air passes through it. It is not like the older model being freely clear of any constriction. Can someone check their stove to see if this is normal or not. I have replaced the older rectangular vacuum switch with the newer round style and the stove does not even fire up, and immediately gets the vacuum switch error. Upon power up, the stove opens the firebox and cleans, then the exhaust fan kicks on, next should start dropping pellets, this is where it stops and shows the vacuum switch error with the newer style switch in place. Any ideas? 11-05-2013, 10:39 PM #2 this port should be open and you should be able to blow a decent amount of air through it. most likely clogged with pellet debris 11-05-2013, 10:52 PM #3 dathvader, it is definetly not free, it feels like a hard piece of metal in the port, or maybe left over casting, so it is your understanding that, there is no small type of a air valve in the hole, it alomsts looks like a small sharder valve head, could it be left over casting from when it was manufactured. Another question, is the autoclean on the firebox suppose to happen everything the stove shuts down once temperature on the thermostat is met. It seems we are getting smoke from the stove intermittently after shutdown and the autoclean dumps the firebox. Have you heard of the newer style vacuum switch modules not working? 11-07-2013, 09:37 PM #4 There should be nothing in the hole. something is jammed in there. It is normal for the stove to auto clean after shutdown. The fire should be out by the time it does auto clean, make sure the stove is thoroughly cleaned, refer to owners manual on doing a full cleaning. And no, the newer style vac switches have been very solid. 11-07-2013, 10:10 PM #5 Update: OK, I took a punch and knocked whatever was in the hole out, it a was small peice of metal, I suspect it was there from the manufacturing process. the hole is now clean. Yesterday evening, I fired the stove back up with the new style vacuum switch. it ran for about 15 minutes, then got a vacuum switch error again, shut it down for the night. Tonight, I put the old style rectangular switch back in, and so far through two power ups and shut downs, no errors. Question about the exhaust pipe going to the outside, I have no vertical section going up, only a horizontal output, have you run into any problems with not have any vertical pipe to create more draft? I live near Gettysburg, how far away are you? 11-08-2013, 07:34 PM #6 Check to make sure the vac switch hose is clear. next make sure stove is clean, check burn pot to make sure all hole are open. Remove baffle behind burn pot. clean all the fingers off the heat exchanger. At the bottom of the heat exchanger there are two openings going down where they join together going back toward the exhaust blower. Make sure those openings are clear all the way, I use a 1/2 inch hose adapted to my vacuum to get down in there and clean it all out(that is the problem spot on these stoves). then remove the exhaust blower be careful with the gasket as it is very fragile. Take your vac and clean out the 5 inch exhaust passage going back toward the center of the stove, where the two openings below the heat exchanger join. Then clean out the 90 degree elbow just above the exhaust blower and finish by cleaning the venting. No you do not need any rise on the venting, it is recommended in the case of power outage so you have so natural draft to pull out the smoke. Also on your old vac switch does the black box move in relation to the silver box? it should not, the glue on these old style switches break down and cause the switches to no longer be calibrated. If the switch feels solid you can continue to use the old style. Sometimes if your hopper is near empty you can get a vac switch error due to air being pulled from the hopper, this is rare. I live about 2.5hrs away :P 11-09-2013, 07:08 AM #7 Now this is strange, after the stove shut down Wed. eve with the vac error with the new style vac switch, this was after I removed the metal piece from the vac port inside the pellet feed tube and cleaned behind the baffle along with the two holes you mentioned, made sure fire pot was clean along with the vacuum hose. I installed the original style switch from my older Mt. Vernon stove in the basement Thursday afternoon, the stove has not had any errors now for 36 hours, been working perfect, I have thermostat set at 73, turn on at 70, running on MH manual setting with utility pellet setting. I hope it is solved, still does not make sense why it failed with the new vacuum switch.

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