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Can't open my washing machine door

So what should you do when faced with a washing machine door that just won't open? It might be very tempting to just break open the door and while it might come to that in more serious cases, you should be able to avoid the expense and hassle that comes with replacing your washing machine's door. The specialist repair team of Repair Aid can help you fix any washing machine fault but if you feel that you have the knowledge and the skill to do the job yourself, and know how to be safe, here are a few recommendations. First Things First The first thing you need to check is whether water is still in the machine, yes there's a good chance you might have quite the clean-up job on your hands when opening the door. Some models of washing machine doors won't open if water is still detected in the drum, so if you can drain the machine then you might be able to fix the problem. So, check the drain filters to see if there's an obstruction, you can find out more about solving drainage issues on our other blog post. Once the water is drained you should be able to open the door, if the water is what was causing the problem. However, if there's no water in the washer then you'll need to try something else. Door Jams and Switches If there's no water in the machine then the problem will likely be due to a damaged or faulty door or problem with the switch. There is a wide range of issues that could cause the door to not open so you will need to some investigating to narrow down your options. Pressure Switch - Some models of washing machine doors will stay locked even after a cycle because the machine won't reset to empty. This means your lock will still be energised and won't release however it can be fixed by turning off power at the mains and leaving the machine to cool down for 5-10 minutes. The Door Is Jammed - Washing machine doors can be jammed in a number of ways with the most common cause being a faulty interlock. The door might also be damaged in some way, the handles on some washers are very fragile meaning they can easily get snapped. You may be able to manipulate a jammed or broken door in order to open it but be very careful because you can easily end up causing more damage. And remember to unplug the appliance before you attempt to manipulate the door lock so there's no risk of electric shocks. If you have no luck manipulating the lock then you'll need to remove the interlock yourself, effectively breaking the lock to open the door. If you still think the lock can be fixed then you might want to call in a Repair Aid technician first to take a look at the machine. Top Load Washing Machines - Yes this is a problem that can affect top load washers as well, their more unusual design doesn't make them immune to door problems. With a top load washing machine, the cause of the problem will likely be different though due to the differences in design. If you have a top load washer and the door won't open then it will usually be because of the hinges. Most standard top load washers will have two hinges at the back of the lid. These can get worn down and damaged over time, especially if they are made of plastic rather than metal. If you're lucky you may be able to replace the hinge pins which will return the door to normal. However, if the hinges are really damaged then you will have to get a Repair Aid washing machine engineer in and see if they can repair or replace them for you. Overheating Issues Overheating can also sometimes cause the circuits on your washing machine's interlock to stop working. Your appliance may still be powered on as normal but the door will just refuse to budge. If you have been using your washer a lot then this is more likely to happen. A common sign to watch out for is the temperature of your washing machine's door. If you notice that the door is very hot to the touch then you might want to wait a while before putting another load in. Fortunately, overheating is usually a problem that will rectify its-self if you give the appliance some time to cool down. You should also try to avoid over heating your washer regularly because this could cause the circuits in the interlock to blow. Please always rely on professional help and never try to fix your faulty appliance yourself if you don't have professional knowledge and training as this is not safe. For professional advice and help, please contact our trained washing machine repair technicians. Washing machines are essential to our everyday lives and we rarely ever pause to think about them. That's why it's always out of the blue when your laundry is done, you go for the door handle, as you always do, and find that it won't open. Surprising and frustrating at the same time. So, You have an old washing machine with a stuck door, but you don't want to buy a new one. Your washing machine reached the end of its cycle and the door won't open. You unplugged and plugged it back in again, but the door is still stuck. Here are some possible reasons and solutions to why your washing machine door won't open. Table of Contents: Take a look inside the washing machine to check if there's still water in the drum. If there is, then there's likely a drainage problem or a waste pipe blockage that prevents the water from leaving your unit. Many washing machine models are programmed to keep the door locked until the drum is completely empty of water. With that said, here is: How to drain a washing machine In order to fix this problem, you'll have to drain the washer. Follow the steps below: Unplug the machine from the mains. Tape the power chord on top of the washer or somewhere else. The point is for it not to touch the floor that will be wet in just a few minutes. Find the drain pump filter - it's usually located in the lower front of the unit, hidden behind a protective panel. Open the panel. Place some dry rags or a pan below the filter. Drain the filter. Unscrew the pump filter. Let the water drain onto the placed pan or rags. Clean the filter - remove any hair, paper, and even coins that can build up over time and cause a blockage. * Some models have a drain hose beside the filter. If yours does: Unclip it from its place. Place it over the pan. Remove its cap so the water can drain. Return it to its place. Door is jammed The door can become jammed for two main reasons: faulty interlock or broken handle. Here is how to check: try to open the door. If the handle is stiff, then the lock is probably jammed. If the handle is loose, then it's broken and the lock is okay. Thermal interlock This device works by heating up and expanding, so unless the washing machine is cool, it won't unlock. Sometimes it will stick, especially if you use your washing machine quite a lot in a short window of time. How to fix it: unplug the unit and wait until it cools down for a few minutes to one hour. Afterwards, try to open the door. If the door is still stuck, strike the handle area firmly. It might help to release the lock. Broken door handle Washing machine handles are fragile and thus easy to damage. Don't try and force open the washing machine; instead, find a thin string. Wrap the string around the door frame and pull to the other side of the do - the side opposite the lock. The point is for the line to move the hook so the door opens. If all else fails, unscrew the top of the washing machine. Then, find the back door catch and push it so it releases the door. Most models have a manual release, so you can get your laundry out before calling a specialist to fix the unit. Now that you know how to take care of a washing machine that won't open, let's take a look at the other side of the coin. Washing machine door won't lock In this case, the problem is with the door interlock or the release mechanism and can happen to almost any machine, regardless of whether it's 3 years old or more. You have probably encountered this situation: The washing machine makes a clicking noise when you close the door, but it won't lock or start. The door is not clicking at all when closed. You switched your washing on a cleaning cycle and left the room. When you returned, you discovered the unit door wide open while the machine is working! In this case, you can replace either of the two parts causing the problem. How to replace a washing machine door lock Here's the process of replacing a washer door lock explained: Turn off the washing machine from the mains. Open the door widely to gain access to the interlock. Remove the retaining band. Use a flat-headed screwdriver to do this. Remove the rubber seal from around the interlock. Unscrew the screws holding the interlock. Slip your hand below the interlock and get it out. You will find it's connected with cables. Unclip the cables from the old interlock and clip them to the new one. Follow the steps in reverse order to attach the new lock. How to replace a door release mechanism If you need to replace the door release mechanism, follow the steps below: Remove the door from the machine by unscrewing the nuts holding it there. Separate door trims by unscrewing the screws that hold them together. The mechanism is located between the inner and outer door trim. Unclip the trim. Lift the bowl and the trim. Replace the old locking mechanism with a new one. Follow the steps in reverse order. Try out our appliance repair services! Get in touch with professionals! If you can't open or close your washing machine, then perhaps it's time you turned to the professionals. Fantastic Services works with experienced and fully equipped technicians who will repair your washing machine and replace whatever part necessary. Let us save you time and effort! If the door won't open: If your washing machine is still full of water, check for a clog in the drainage hose. Check if the door is jammed because of a faulty interlock or broken handle. Try to open the door either with a firm hit or with a very thin wire. If the door won't lock: Change the interlock. Change the door release mechanism. ***Are you having problems with your washing machine? Did you manage to resolve the issue on your own? Let us know by leaving a comment! Image Source: Shutterstock / Andrey Popov

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