



Get to know your old gas grill

OUTDOORS | New parts, cleaning can give it a few more seasons

BY ZACH DUNKIN

After closing that faded, black lid on the old grill for the final time last summer, you might have vowed to buy one of those new infrared, five-burner models. But with money tight, that purchase might now be on the backburner.

A little cleaning, some new parts and maybe a paint job could give you another year or two of service, says Derrick Riches, the grill expert for about.com.

"Grill repair makes a lot of sense in most circumstances, and replacing parts in most grills is actually pretty easy," Riches says.

Like a lot of backyard chefs, you probably didn't clean off that buildup of black, greasy gunk left by a summer's worth of burgers and brats.

To do so now, make sure that the fuel tank is in the off position and disconnect the gas. Strip the grill to its shell, and clean with warm, soapy water and rinse with the hose. Also, clean the burners and grates; be sure they're completely dry before reinstalling.

Inspect the grill, and if it needs major work, you are better off replacing it.

"In some instances, it might just be a single burner, but in other situations where rust has eaten through much of the interior components, you could be looking at burners, multi-

PRICE CHECK

What it'll cost to fix it? These parts can be found at most hardware stores, discount stores and online:

- Fuel hose and regulator: \$18-\$22
- Control valve: \$18-\$20
- Burner with venturi tube: \$20-\$25
- Igniter kit: \$11-\$20
- High-heat paint: \$7-\$8

When a gas grill is working properly, the flame is evenly distributed through the burners and the flame is blue with yellow tips.

The greatest point of failure in a gas grill is the burner, which typically lasts about three years with low-end grills, Riches says. It can be replaced for as little as \$20.

"You could be saving yourself as much as 90 percent of the total replacement price by putting in a new burner," Riches says.

Trouble-shooting

Riches has these tips for fixing clogs and keeping the critters away from the grill:

- ◆ Irregular fuel flow can be caused by a clogged vent hole on the regulator attached to the fuel hose. Usually you can clear it by tapping or blowing into the vent.
- ◆ Fuel leakage caused by a worn or damaged hose or O-ring also can cause irregular fuel flow. To determine if there is a leak, mix dish soap and water in equal parts and coat everything from the tank to the venturi tubes, which connect the control valve to the burners and mix the fuel with air to provide flame. If you find a leak, replace that part.
- ◆ The orifice of the burner's control valve sometimes becomes clogged with insects, which limit the amount of gas flowing to the burner and runs the risk of explosion. Use a thin wire to clean it out.
- ◆ Spiders also love to settle in the venturi tubes. The best solution is to wrap the venturi tubes with an aluminum screen that will not block the airflow but will keep the critters out.

Gannett News Service

SEEING HOW THE 'DISTINCTIVE' LIVE

TOUR | Custom 9,000-square-foot home now open for viewing

BY CELESTE BUSK
 cbusk@tribune.com

Those who are interested in multimillion-dollar new custom homes with smart home technology and who also want to help raise funds for charity can head to the Home of Distinction Tour in north suburban Highland Park.

The home, which will be opened for public tours May 28 through June 14, is a stunning English Tudor-style home built by Glenn Gutnayer Construction. Tour proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Lake County. The home, priced at \$3.85 million, features a whopping 9,000-plus square feet of living space with 6 bedrooms, 5.2 baths, four fireplaces, a screened porch, sunken garden and an attached 3-car garage.

"The home has Old World charm with the latest amenities," said custom home builder Glenn Gutnayer. "These are gracious sun-filled rooms with magazine-quality finishes."

Gutnayer says the Home of Distinction's design was inspired by Harry T. Lindberg, master architect of numerous great American estates, including the Owensin Club and the J.O. Armour Estate in Lake Forest.

"We built it with bricks manufactured in the 1940s, so it blends seamlessly with the other historic homes of the neighborhood," Gutnayer said. "These aged bricks have a patina and character that cannot be bought today."

The sprawling crescent-shaped home features a U-shaped driveway, which is lined with old oak trees. Reproductions of Old World architectural appointments abound, such as sloping slate roofs, a copper onyx, dormers and hanging trough-style copper gutters.

"One of the distinctions of this home is that the builder paid a lot of attention to detail, using architectural integrity," said marketing manager Ryan Sheplack of TL Concepts based in Kansas City. "If you look at the other grand estates along the North Shore, this house fits right in because it has that older architectural character."

Entry into the home reveals a spacious hall measuring 19 by 13 feet. To the right is a living room and study. To the left is a dining room that leads to a 25-by-16-foot gourmet kitchen with a large pantry. There's also a mud room off the kitchen, which provides access to the 3-car attached garage. Directly ahead of the entry hall is a large 22-by-19-square-foot family room, which has a fireplace and access to a 17-by-12-foot screened rear porch.

The second floor includes all six bedrooms, including a 21-by-18-square-foot master bedroom with access to a large walkout deck. The second floor also has a laundry room.

The home also has a large lower level with a "wild card factor," Sheplack said. The lower level also features a 21-by-21-foot family room with a 22-foot-long wet bar, full bath, a 17-by-13-foot office and a 20-by-14-foot game/billiard room. The game/billiard room has access to a sunken outdoor garden.

Home automation also is showcased at the Home of Distinction. The home has \$80,000 worth of high-tech automation. "The house is designed for ease of use by controlling all systems — security, heating and air-conditioning and



HOME OF DISTINCTION TOUR

When: May 28 to June 14
Where: 1590 Hawthorne Ln., Highland Park
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday
Admission: \$10 at the door
Information: (847) 623-1020; www.homeofdistinction.com

audio — in one location," said home automation expert Jim Holter, president of BS Systems, based in Graylake. The firm installed all the automation in the tour home.

"It has a Elan Home Automation system with a main panel with two color touch screens that allows the homeowner to completely control the functions of the home, from the home or away from the home," Holter said.

The highlight of the automation is in the lower level theater room, which is a movie lover's dream, measuring 25 by 15 feet.

"It's a good-sized theater and has a 110-inch-wide screen with theater projection, surround sound and Blu-Ray DVD player," Holter said. Other highlights include acoustic wall treatments for better sound and six plush theater seats.

"The house is wired for the future," Holter said. "It has all the modern cables for telephones, wireless Internet and cable TV."

So what's the bottom line on the show home?
 "One of the best things about the home tour is that people can come out and get ideas for their own home, plus help raise funds for Habitat," Sheplack said.



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