



Bugs - They love your BBQ as much as you do!

How and Why

All natural gas and propane ('gas') BBQs attract bugs and spiders. The reason, is that gas barbecues have an odour like rotten eggs. This odour is added as a safety precaution, it makes it easy to detect in the event of a leak. This odour also attracts insects. They will nest in and around the venturi tubes by entering through the air intake. Their nests or webs can cause a full or partial blockage of the venturi tube causing the gas to flow back out of the tube and ignite around the valve area. The fire may appear to be at the valve, venturi tubes or control knobs. This 'flashback' or 'control panel' fire can cause serious damage.

Prevention

Some manufacturers are installing 'spider guards' or small screens on the air intakes. Although this helps reduce the occurrence, it does not eliminate it. Even with the screen, we have seen instances where spiders and bugs have returned within a couple of days after the venturi tubes were cleaned.

When to Clean the Venturi Tubes

Clean the venturi tubes with a venturi brush when:

- You smell gas
- You notice that one or both sides of the burner has a yellow flame
- Your barbecue is not reaching temperature
- Your barbecue heats unevenly
- Your burner makes popping noises

How to Clean Venturi Tubes

- Turn off your gas supply at the source
 - Remove burner to expose the venturi tubes. Different manufacturers use different ways to secure the burners (from 1 to 4 screws or clips). Refer to your manual for specific diagrams and instructions
 - Inspect the tube and look for any sign of a web. Slowly insert the brush on one side inch by inch and remove potential debris on the opposite side. Do not go fast or push any potential web to the back of the tube (you want to know if there are webs and if so – remove them entirely).
 - **It is CRITICAL that the venturi tubes be free and clear of all debris.** Even a small blockage can cause a flashback or cause enough turbulence within the tube to give an improper air / gas mixture resulting in an improper yellow flame. The webs or nests can be very small, but they are very strong.
 - Replace the burner in the BBQ and see if there are any changes to the flame and/or heat. Make sure the venturi tubes are seated over the orifice and that the burner is resting flat and level inside the barbecue.
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