I'm not a robot

One of the most common (and inconvenient) problems with the Nissan Pathfinder is when it has no heat coming from the heater. Not having a functioning heater makes driving much less comfortable, and can be a sign of certain issues.At the simplest level, there are two main reasons why the heater is not working. If its not coming on at all, its usually either the blower motor or some other wiring issue. If the heat is blowing, but blowing cold, it has something to do with the coolant getting to the heater core, or the heater core itself.Pathfinder No Heat: How the Heater WorksAt the simplest level possible, the heater works by passing hot coolant from the engine into a tiny radiator called the heater core. At this point, the blower motor blows air across the it and the newly heated air blows on to the driver and passengers. If the heater has stopped working in your Pathfinder, this process has failed in one way or another. Nissan Pathfinder Heater Not Working: DiagnosisA word of caution: If there is no coolant in your overflow, you can refill it by adding more to the overflowreservoir. There is almost never a situation where you would need to take the radiator cap off of the radiator to add coolant. The exception to that would be when you would have reason to believe that the hose going from the reservoir to the radiator is clogged. Anytime youre putting your hand around the radiator or fans in the engine assume that they are hot and that the fans can kick on at any time, even without your key in the ignition.Low CoolantWhile not having enough coolant may make your engine run hotter, it can also cause your Pathfinder to not be able to create enough heat. Is there isnt enough line pressure, due to low coolant, then the heater core will not be able to get any coolant itself. You can verify this by checking the coolant level by taking a peek at the overflow reservoir. The overflow reservoir will be connected to the radiator by a tube coming from the top (usually right by the radiator cap). It should have separate lines to indicate cool hot and cool cold. Some vehicles only have full hot. Never touch the radiator cap unless the vehicle is ICE COLD.Bad ThermostatThe job of your Pathfinders thermostat is to regulate the temperature of the engine. It does this by allowing water to enter the engine when it is getting hot, and by keeping coolant from entering while the vehicle warms up.Sometimes when a thermostat goes bad, it stays stuck open. This allows the coolant to continuously enter the engine. When this happens itll feel like the heat is barely working, or you may notice that itll work if the vehicle isnt moving, but if you get on the highway it stops working.If your Pathfinder has a built in temperature gauge, take a look at it and see if it is in the spot it is normally in after a bit of driving. If it looks like it is colder than normal, thats a pretty good indication that there is something wrong with the thermostat. Heater CoreThe heater core itself can go bad. Over time, they are known to clog and fail. If you have a heater core that clogged, its not going to be able to pass coolant through. Without the warm coolant going through it, there can be no heat. A bad heater core can also leak, so watch out for that. Feel your passenger floorboard to see if its wet.Heater cores are typically pretty affordable. Hose to/from the Heater CoreThere are two hoses coming to and from the heater core. They both should feel warm or hot to the touch with the engine on. If one of the hoses is hot, and the other one is cold, that is a pretty good indication that the heater core is clogged. If the neither hose has any heat, you may have air in the cooling system, low fluid, or low pressure. Water PumpIf you look at your temperature gauge, and the engine is running hotter than normal, but there is not heat coming from the heater you may be having issues with the water pump. Try taking the vehicle out of gear and revving the engine a little. If you feel the heat start to blow hot for a few seconds thats an indication of a bad water pump or low coolant. Also, the serpentine belt going to the water pump going bad can it not turn as fast as it needs to.Heres symptoms of a bad water pump from Autoblog. Conclusion: Heat Not Working Nissan PathfinderIt can be tough to find why your Pathfinders heater is blowing cold. But, using the info above about how and why a heater would fail can make it a lot easier. If there is anything you would like to add, please feel free to leave a comment below. The heater in Nissan Pathfinder ensures comfortable temperature in the passenger compartment when the weather is chilly. There are many reasons for poor heating performance in Pathfinder, which are explained in this article. Nissan Pathfinder (rustycanuck / Shutterstock) The heater may stop working in Nissan Pathfinder due to low coolant level or air in the cooling system, clogged heater core, bad thermostat, faulty blend door actuator, bad water pump, dirty cabin air filter, bad blower motor, or HVAC control unit malfunction. Low coolant level or air in the cooling system can cause the heater to stop working properly in Pathfinder. If the cooling system is not full and bled properly, the water pump will not be able to push the coolant around the system efficiently. The heating system in Pathfinder uses hot coolant or antifreeze from the engine block to heat the interior of the vehicle. The hot coolant is pumped through the heater core located behind the dashboard. When you turn on the heating, air gets blown through the heater core, warming the air in the cabin.If there is air trapped inside the heater core, the coolant will not be able to flow through it properly. Since the heater core is usually slightly higher, the air will accumulate in there first. By filling and properly bleeding the system the heat should come back. Low coolant level or air in the heater core can sometimes cause sloshing sound from behind the dashboard when the engine is running. The sound is most prominent right after you start the vehicle. Checking coolant level in Pathfinder is a fairly some job. You just have to locate the coolant overflow reservoir and inspect the level of coolant in it. If the coolant level is low, open the cap and pour some coolant into the tank until it is between minimum and maximum mark. Clogged heater core is one of the leading causes of heating not working in Nissan Pathfinder. The design of the heater core is similar to the radiator, it has narrow internal channels through which hot coolant flows. Over time, the heater core can begin to rust or mineral deposits can form in these channels, blocking the flow of the coolant. You dont have to remove the heater core in your Pathfinder to check if it is clogged. Locate two rubber hoses that connect to the heater core through the firewall area. Feel both the rubber lines going in and out of the heater core after the engine has warmed up. Both should be hot. If one is hot and the other is cold, you have a plugged heater core. Before you consider replacing the heater core in your Pathfinder, it is recommended to flush the existing heater core. Flushing is done by pushing water through the outlet hose of the heater core and draining the gunk from the inlet hose. There are flush kits available in the market that can help you do the job yourself. Thermostat is a part of the cooling system in Nissan Pathfinder which ensures that the engine reaches its optimal operating temperature as quickly as possible and maintain it under all operating conditions. When you start your Pathfinder when the engine is cold, the thermostat cuts off flow of coolant through the radiator in order to quickly reach the optimal engine operating temperature. But if the thermostat has developed a defect and is stuck to open position, the coolant will continuously flow through the radiator and the engine may take a long time to reach its optimal operating temperature. Since the heating system in Pathfinder relies on the hot coolant from the engine to heat the interior, the heater will blow cold air until the engine reaches its normal operating temperature. But if the weather is too cold, the engine may never reach its optimal operating temperature with a stuck open thermostat. Your vehicle may also consume more fuel than normal. The water pump is the heart of the cooling system in Pathfinder responsible for pumping coolant throughout the system and cooling the engine. If the water pump has worn out and the coolant is not being circulated as effectively as it used to, it can cause the heater to stop working properly because theres less coolant available to transfer heat between the engine and the heater core. Water pumps usually last for more than 100,000 miles, but they can fail at any time. A bad water pump will not only cause poor heating, but can also result in engine damage due to overheating. Therefore it is important to diagnose a failing water pump at early stages to avoid expensive repairs later on. Blend door actuator plays a role in controlling the temperature inside your Pathfinder. If the blend door actuator fails to fully open the blend door towards the heater core, it will result in poor heating performance. The most common symptom of a faulty blend door actuator in Nissan Pathfinder is a slight clicking sound (or other unusual noise) repeatedly coming from under the dashboard. The sound will be most prominent for a few seconds when you turn on the air conditioning or adjust the temperature. A knocking noise from behind the dashboard could be an indicator of a bad blend door actuator in your Pathfinder. The sound is something like a light tapping on the door and it typically happens when you turn on/off the air conditioning system or start the engine. A bad blend door actuator making a knocking sound when AC turns on. A bad blend door actuator making a strange creaking sound when adjusting the climate control temperature. A common symptom of a faulty blend door actuator in vehicles with dual zone climate control system is one side blowing hot air while the other side is blowing cold air. A bad blend door actuator usually cannot be repaired and must be replaced with a new one. Due to the complexity of the replacement job, it is not recommended as a DIY project. The blend door actuator may require recalibration after replacement. Dirty cabin air filter is the leading cause of weak heater airflow in Nissan Pathfinder. The pollen filter, also known as the cabin air filter or microfilter, is responsible for filtering the air that the passengers breathe in the cabin. A dirty filter causes the overall ventilation of the interior to deteriorate resulting in reduced heating and airflow. There is no fixed time for replacing the cabin air filter, but most manufacturers recommend a change after 10,000-20,000 miles. If you drive your vehicle in dusty or polluted environment, the filter can get dirty much sooner than manufacturers recommendation. Additionally, if you drive your Pathfinder with AC system set to fresh outside air most of the time, your cabin air filter will get dirty much sooner as compared to air recirculation mode. It is generally recommended to replace the cabin air filter every year at the start of the winter season. Spring and summer seasons are hard on the cabin air filter because of pollen and bugs, and in the fall they can get clogged with leaf debris. This gives you a fresh start for the winter, improves defroster performance, and reduces chances of mold or mildew growth. Instead of changing the cabin air filter in Pathfinder, it is often recommended to first clean the filter. This can be done, for example, with a vacuum cleaner or a compressed air system, removing at least a large part of the visible dirt particles. Unfortunately, this procedure does not allow you to get into the deeper layers of the filter. Therefore, the filter performance will not increase significantly even after cleaning. As a rule, there is no avoiding a change if the filter is dirty. If the blower motor in your Pathfinder is not spinning fast enough either due to an internal defect or due to a fault in the resistor/control module, the airflow from the AC vents will be weaker and the heating performance will be degraded. When a blower motor goes bad, it usually makes unusual noises when in operation, and the passengers may feel reduced airflow from the air vents. Keep in mind that reduced airflow doesnt always indicate a problem with the blower motor, as it can also happen due to a clogged cabin air filter, dirty evaporator, or a bad mode door actuator. So, all of them must be inspected when diagnosing poor airflow. If there is no air flow from the air vents in the dashboard when you turn on the heater in your Nissan Pathfinder, it means the problem is related to the fan or blower motor function. The most common causes for blower motor not working in Nissan Pathfinder are blown fuse, bad relay, resistor or control module malfunction, and faulty blower motor. However, a bad electrical connector or broken wire, or a defect in the climate control unit can also cause the blower motor to stop working. Dirty evaporator can cause weak airflow and reduce the heating performance in Pathfinder. Although, the evaporator coil is a component of the cooling function of the air-conditioning system, but the air always first passes through the evaporator and then flows over the heater core. Dirty vs clean AC evaporator coil comparison. The cabin air filter captures most of the dirt or other airborne particles, but some particles escape and can get lodged on to the evaporator. Over time, these particles build up on the fins and block the air flow through the evaporator, causing reduced air flow in the cabin and poor heating or cooling. When the heater is turned on and the AC turned off, the compressor does not turn on and the evaporator is not cooled. When you press the AC button in heating mode, the compressor turns on and the evaporator cools and dries the air before it enters the heater core. This mode is useful for clearing fog from the windows. Climate control module is the brain of the air-conditioning system in your Nissan Pathfinder, responsible for controlling all the components in the system. In rare cases, a fault in the climate control unit can cause the heater to stop functioning. This would require a scan tool to confirm correct operation. The head gasket is responsible for providing the seal between the engine block and cylinder heads. Its purpose is to seal the combustion gases within the cylinders and to avoid coolant or engine oil leaking into the cylinders. Leaks in the head gasket can cause all sorts of problems in your Pathfinder including poor heater performance. This is mostly common in older vehicles. Head gaskets can fail at any time, but they typically last at least 100,000 miles with proper engine maintenance. A blown head gasket can cause the exhaust gases from the engine to enter the cooling system and plug the heater core. Clearing the air from the heater core will not help until the head gasket has been replaced. A blown head gasket can cause coolant to leak into the combustion chambers and burn off. If your Pathfinder is losing coolant, that means there is a leak somewhere or it is getting burned up inside the engine. You dont have to go to a workshop to check for a leaking head gasket in your Pathfinder. There are test kits available in the market in which you just have to insert a tube filled with colored liquid in the radiator (in place of the radiator cap), and then start the engine. If the liquid changes color, then there is a leak in head gasket. When the outside temperature drops too low, the heating performance may be reduced in Pathfinder if the air conditioning system is set to outside air. To improve heating efficiency, it is recommended to switch on air recirculation mode. Dont worry, there is no risk of suffocation, as the air recirculation mode still allows up to approximately 10 percent of the air coming from the air vents to be fresh air from the outside. Turning on the air recirculation mode in your vehicle will use the existing air inside the cabin to heat the interior. A little bit of outside air is added to maintain oxygen level in the cabin. There are many reasons why the heater in your Nissan Pathfinder is not working properly. When looking for the reason, you should start with the most obvious causes: low coolant level or air in the cooling system, and clogged heater core. In any case, it is advisable for laypersons to visit a workshop. A professional mechanic can swiftly diagnose the heating issue for you. 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The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Hi Rendy, First thing to check is your antifreeze. Make sure the coolant level in your radiator is topped up to the proper level; if it's too low there may not be enough in the system to circulate through the heater core. After that, there are some mechanical things that can cause your heater to not get hot. There's a temperature regulating valve that controls how much coolant flows through the heater core; if that's broken, disconnected or corroded it may not be opening far enough to let sufficient antifreeze through. Of course, the controls that work that valve could have problems anywhere along the line from the knob itself to the cabling or linkage that actually moves the valve. You'll want to check the heater hoses inside the engine compartment for any kinks or blockages that are going to keep the coolant out of the heater core as well. If the heater fan isn't blowing, then only the amount of air forced through when the car is moving will got to you, so make sure you've got good airflow from the fan. Generally there are some baffle doors in most modern cars that allow for mixing air from outside and from the air conditioning evaporator that can get jammed or broken so as to not allow the air to mix properly so those will need to be checked. Finally, the heater core itself could be congested with rust or contaminant such that it's blocking the proper flow of coolant in exactly the same way a clogged radiator does. As you can see there's no one single answer to your question and diagnosing the problem means working through them one at a time till you determine where the problem is coming from.

Nissan pathfinder heater blowing cold air. Nissan pathfinder not blowing hot air. Nissan pathfinder heater not getting hot. Nissan pathfinder heating problems.