

Whirlpool 279787

Whirlpool 279787 Dryer Drive Motor Instruction Manual

Model: 279787

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Whirlpool 279787 Dryer Drive Motor is a genuine replacement component designed for use in compatible Whirlpool and Kenmore dryer models. This motor is responsible for rotating the dryer drum and operating the blower fan, which circulates air during the drying cycle. Replacing a faulty drive motor with a genuine part ensures proper fit, function, and longevity of your appliance.



Image 1.1: Top-down view of the Whirlpool 279787 Dryer Drive Motor, showing the central shaft and copper windings.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Before attempting any repair or installation, review the following safety precautions:

- **Disconnect Power:** Always unplug the dryer from its power source or turn off the circuit breaker before beginning any service.
- **Wear Protective Gear:** Use work gloves and safety glasses to prevent injury.
- **Professional Assistance:** If you are unfamiliar with appliance repair procedures, it is recommended to consult a qualified service technician.
- **Follow Manufacturer Guidelines:** Refer to your specific dryer model's service manual for detailed disassembly and reassembly instructions.
- **Handle with Care:** The motor can be heavy; lift and position it carefully to avoid injury or damage.

3. WHAT'S INCLUDED

The Whirlpool 279787 Drive Motor package typically includes:

- Whirlpool 279787 Drive Motor
- Insulating sleeve (split, for wire protection)
- Two insulated small quick connects (may not be needed depending on existing wiring)

4. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Value
Brand	Whirlpool
Model Number	279787
Speed	1725 RPM
Voltage	120 Volts
Horsepower	60
Product Dimensions	6"W x 5.38"H
Material	Metal and durable plastic components
Item Weight	2 Pounds
Color	Silver

5. INSTALLATION GUIDE

Replacing a dryer drive motor requires careful disassembly and reassembly of the appliance. The exact steps may vary depending on your specific dryer model. Always refer to your dryer's service manual or consult a qualified technician for model-specific instructions.

5.1. Tools Required

- Screwdrivers (Phillips and flathead)
- Nut drivers or wrenches
- Pliers
- Work gloves and safety glasses
- Optional: Hammer and wood chisel (for stubborn blower wheels)

5.2. Preparation

1. **Disconnect Power:** Unplug the dryer from the electrical outlet or turn off the corresponding circuit breaker.
2. **Clear Work Area:** Ensure you have adequate space to work around and disassemble the dryer.
3. **Access Panels:** Remove the necessary access panels (usually the front and/or rear panels) to expose the internal components.

5.3. Step-by-Step Installation

1. **Remove the Drive Belt:** Carefully release the tensioner pulley and remove the drive belt from the motor pulley and dryer drum.
2. **Disconnect Wiring:** Label and disconnect all electrical wires connected to the old drive motor. Note the

position of the belt switch wires and the overload switch connection.

3. **Remove Blower Wheel:** The blower wheel is typically attached to the motor shaft. This may require significant force or specialized tools. Some users report needing a hammer and chisel if the wheel is seized. Consider replacing the blower wheel (e.g., WP697772) if it is damaged or difficult to remove.
4. **Remove Old Motor:** Unmount the old motor from its bracket. The motor bearing hub often has a notch that fits into a matching support, ensuring correct orientation.
5. **Install New Motor:** Position the new Whirlpool 279787 Drive Motor onto its mounting bracket, ensuring the notched hub aligns correctly. Secure it in place.
6. **Attach Blower Wheel:** Install the blower wheel onto the shaft of the new motor. Apply a small amount of grease to the shaft if desired to prevent future seizing.
7. **Connect Wiring:** Reconnect all electrical wires to the new motor, matching them to the labels made during disconnection. The included insulating sleeve should be used on longer wires to prevent rubbing. The tab for the overload switch may be in a different position than the old motor, but connections should remain straightforward.
8. **Reinstall Drive Belt:** Route the drive belt around the drum and the new motor pulley, then re-engage the tensioner pulley. Ensure the belt is properly seated.
9. **Reassemble Dryer:** Replace all access panels and secure them.
10. **Test Operation:** Plug the dryer back into the power source or restore power at the circuit breaker. Run a short cycle to ensure the motor operates correctly and the drum rotates smoothly.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 5.1: An official video from Whirlpool Service Parts discussing the importance of using genuine OEM parts for Whirlpool appliances. This video highlights the design, testing, and availability of authentic replacement parts.

6. OPERATION

Once installed, the Whirlpool 279787 Drive Motor functions automatically as part of the dryer's operational cycle. When the dryer is started, the motor engages to spin the drum, tumbling the clothes, and simultaneously powers the blower fan to draw air through the heating element and circulate it through the drum, facilitating the drying process. Proper operation is indicated by smooth drum rotation and consistent airflow.

7. MAINTENANCE

The drive motor itself typically requires no routine maintenance. However, ensuring the overall cleanliness and proper functioning of related dryer components can contribute to the motor's longevity:

- **Clean Lint Filter:** Regularly clean the lint filter before or after each load to maintain proper airflow and prevent motor strain.
- **Inspect Venting:** Periodically check and clean the dryer's exhaust vent to ensure it is free of obstructions. Restricted airflow can cause the motor to overheat.
- **Check Drive Belt:** Inspect the drive belt for signs of wear, fraying, or cracking. Replace if necessary.
- **Listen for Unusual Noises:** Pay attention to any new or unusual noises coming from the dryer, which could indicate issues with the motor or other components.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

If your dryer experiences issues after motor replacement, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Dryer does not start	No power, faulty door switch, thermal fuse, or start switch.	Check power supply, ensure door is closed, inspect thermal fuse and start switch for continuity.
Drum does not turn	Broken drive belt, faulty idler pulley, motor overload, or motor issue.	Inspect drive belt and idler pulley. If motor hums but doesn't turn, it may be overloaded or have a starting capacitor issue.
Unusual noises (squealing, grinding)	Worn drum rollers, idler pulley, blower wheel, or motor bearings.	Identify the source of the noise. Replace worn components. Ensure the blower wheel is securely attached and not rubbing.
Dryer runs but no heat	Faulty heating element, thermal fuse, thermostat, or restricted airflow.	Check heating element, thermal fuse, and thermostats. Clean lint filter and exhaust vent.

If troubleshooting does not resolve the issue, contact a qualified appliance technician.

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Whirlpool 279787 Drive Motor is a genuine OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) part. While the product listing indicates no specific warranty, using genuine parts ensures compatibility and performance that meets Whirlpool's engineering standards.

For further assistance, technical support, or to locate authorized service providers, please visit the official Whirlpool website or contact Whirlpool customer service. Always provide your dryer's full model number when seeking support.

Whirlpool Official Website: www.whirlpool.com