

Xbox 360 3 Red Light Repair Guide
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If For Any Reason You Have Any Questions Please Email Me At
support@www-xbox360repair.com

Hello and thank you for purchasing my Xbox 360 Repair Guide. Please read over the guide at least once before beginning the repair. Also, please follow the step-by-step instructions carefully and take your time with each step.

Before you start you will need.

1 paper towel

Artic Silver 5 thermal compound



Torx 8 screw driver



Torx 10 screw driver



Flathead screw driver



Any small poker



Thermal compound remover/ or the Artic Silver 5 Kit it has the thermal compound and the cleaning kit



Pliers



Alcohol



Step One:

Unplug Your Xbox 360 Powers Source

Place your fingers into the USB ports, and then place your thumb on the bottom of the Xbox 360 console and pull the face plate completely off.

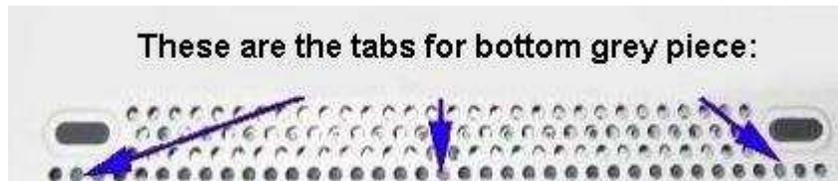
Step Two:

Now, flip the Xbox on its side and take a close look at the holes located on the top and bottom of each side. If you look closely, you can see the gray tabs towards the ends and in the center of the Xbox 360. These gray tabs are what hold the top and bottom pieces on the Xbox 360. To remove the top and bottom gray pieces, you will need a small pointed object as pictured below.



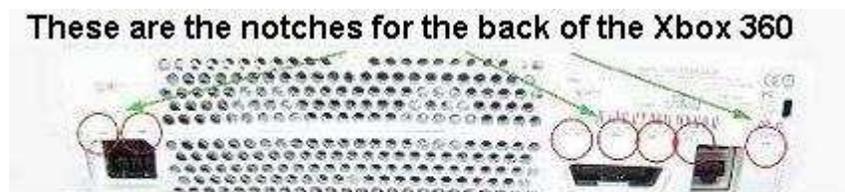
Step Three:

Find the gray plastic tabs by poking down into the holes, and then use your pry tool to very carefully push down and pry out the gray top/bottom cover, as shown below. Both pieces have three clips per side, and six per piece. In order to remove the top gray piece, you will need to remove the rubber pad. This is the only rubber pad you will have to remove. If you are careful you can remove by prying on the front of the gray cover. Please do not force it or you may break the tabs.



Step Four:

Please take a close look at the back of the Xbox 360. On the right and left side there are small notches that will require a closer inspection. You will need a small screw driver or a remaining catches. This is probably the trickiest part of the whole process, so please take your time and be careful! thin probe tool. Using the probe, start on the left side (near power supply socket) push the notch into the Xbox until you hear a click. Then use a screw driver to keep the two sides apart. Once the left side is done, start on the right side doing the same thing to the



You will hear a pop when you push these in.

Step Five:

Please switch around to the front of the Xbox and undo the four catches as shown below:

These are the latches on the front:



Once you have them all separated, pull off the bottom of the Xbox 360, be very gentle. Now, from the bottom of the Xbox 360 carefully flip the Xbox back over. Remove the DVD button arm assembly to keep it out of your way. You just need to gently pry it off the black plastic guide. Next, remove the top cover, watch the DVD button latch! (it is seated in the front metal casing) Disconnect the SATA connector from the motherboard and lift the DVD drive out of the case.

Step Six:

Grab your Torx driver set. Using a T10 and T8 for this part of the disassembly. Gently unscrew the six T10 screws (as shown below), and then use the T10 to unscrew all other screws. Now, unscrew the black screws with the T8 driver. Not all Xbox 360's have the same color screws. You will have to remove all screws!



Step Seven:

You will now remove the white airflow guide. To remove the white plastic air guide, locate the notch on the top outward side. Insert your probe or small screw driver, and carefully pry the air guide out. It should come out very smoothly.



Step Eight:

Next up you will need to disconnect the power for the cooling fans. Use your small screw driver or small probe tool to pry the fan catches out from the metal guard. This will allow you to remove the fan device from the Xbox 360 Casing.



Step 9

You will need to now look at the front of your Xbox 360 and locate the RF module. Remove the white plastic power cover. It pops right off by gently pulling

on the plastic piece. Remove the three screws from the front circuit board (aka RF module). Once the screws are removed, you will be able to slide the RF module off the Xbox 360 with a gentle pull. Be careful not to touch any exposed circuits! Next, carefully lift the motherboard out of the Xbox 360 casing, as shown below, a detailed look at the motherboard with heat sinks installed.



Step Ten

Now with the motherboard removed, flip it over and find the two X connectors on the bottom of it. These are what hold the heat sinks on the CPU & GPU. Be EXTREMELY careful when removing these. It takes a little force, this could destroy your 360 if not applied properly and carefully. Just keep VERY GENTLY trying each one until you get them to release. I myself like to use a small pointy probe tool, carefully inserting it into each one until they release. I also try to stay away from the tiny black memory chips when doing this. Just remember take your time and be very careful and you will have no problems with this step.

Insert the small pry tool from the side of



the X connectors

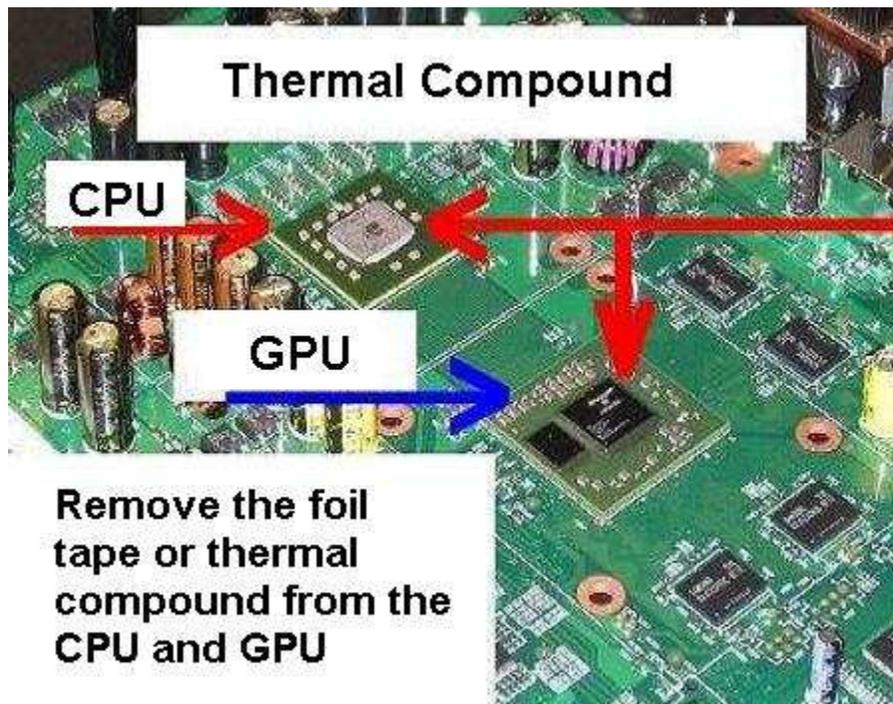
Step Eleven:

In this step you will be removing the thermal compound from the GPU and CPU and Heat sinks

You can remove the thermal compound with the end of a plastic Q-tip and Rubbing Alcohol (slow) or the Arctic Cleaning Kit with a soft cloth (fast).

Clean the GPU and CPU with thermal compound cleaning solution and then wipe the GPU and CPU with alcohol or use what I use in the video which is the Artic Cleaning kit.

After you've removed the thermal compound you need to wipe it down really good so that the GPU, CPU and Heat sinks Shine. To make the GPU and CPU shine dab a little bit of rubbing alcohol onto a paper towel and wipe them done. DO NOT touch the GPU, CPU or Heat sinks with your fingers after they are all shiny.



This is what the old thermal compound should look like.



This is what a clean shiny GPU and CPU should look like Clean GPU and CPU

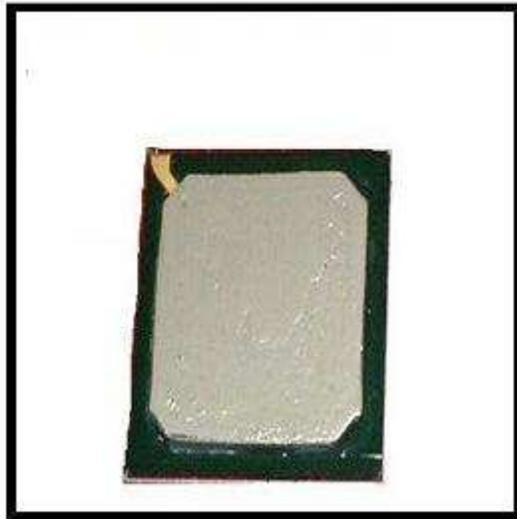


Step Twelve:

After you have cleaned the CPU and GPU heat sinks you will need to REPLACE the thermal compound. Here is a small tutorial I found on eBay explaining how to apply thermal compound. ([Click me for the tutorial](#)). Again, if you need to purchase the thermal compound, you can find it at almost any local computer shop or you can purchase it off eBay as well.

I wrap a piece of plastic bag around my finger and put only a dab (less than a dime size) of Thermal Compound on the tip of my finger and gently wipe the compound on the GPU and CPU. You just want to put a thin layer on it. You shouldn't be able to see the shininess of the GPU and CPU.

This is what the new thermal compound on the GPU and CPU should look like



Step Thirteen: Replace the X clamps

Now you need to take the screws off your Heat sink and replace them with some new screws and add some washers.

To remove the 4 pegs on each of the heat sinks use pliers or the correct wrench. Turn the screws counter clock wise to unscrew the pegs. You will not need these pegs any longer.



Step fourteen: Secure motherboard with bolts.

This the order you need to secure your heat sinks to your motherboard.



This is the order you need have. Zinc plated washer, nylon washer, motherboard, nylon washer, zinc plated washer.



You need to attach both heat sinks to the motherboard. Above is a picture of the process. Put a metal washer first then a nylon washer and then insert the bolt into the mother board and now add another nylon washer and then another metal washer for all 4 holes. Now align the heat skink and bolts together and hand tighten the bolts to the motherboard, make sure no to over tighten the bolts.

This is what you mother board should look like after heat sinks have been secured with the bolts and washers.



Step fifteen: Secure the thermal compound bond.

Put your motherboard back into the metal case and attach dvd drive and plug it in. Next attach the RF module and the white plastic cover. Do not put your fan back yet.

Now plug you xbox 360 power and av cable and turn on your xbox. To turn it on poke the copper button on the middle of the RF module. Your xbox will show the 3 red light error for about 1min 30 sec or so then it will only light up the 2 left red lights which means your xbox is over heating which is exactly what we want because we need the thermal compound to melt a little so that the GPU, CPU and heat sinks can make full contact.

As soon as only the 2 left red lights are on wait 1 min to 1min 30sec and then unplug you xbox and remove the dvd drive and the RF module. Be Very Careful not to burn yourself. Your xbox will be HOT.

Use a towel and remove your motherboard from the metal case. Now you will tighten the bolts that replaced the X clamps. Use pliers or the correct sized socket and tighten all the bolts, do not tighten them so hard that you snap your motherboard.

Now its time to let your xbox to completely cool down. Wait 20-30 min or longer if the room is warm.

Step sixteen: Reassemble your xbox 360.

See video in the member's area for a tutorial. Or put it back together without the video its pretty dang easy.

You can now plug in the Xbox 360 and turn it on ☺



Hopefully your Xbox 360 works and you can now have the comfort of knowing you saved a ton of money by not sending in the console to Microsoft! The 3 red lights error most likely will not happen again, but if it does you now have the knowledge of how to fix it. Please play the Xbox 360 on low settings for at least

20 days so it can set up and cure. Enjoy! ☺

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