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Subject: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [TheGunrun](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 19:55:50 GMT  
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I have a Radeon 9800 pro, running on a Pentium 4, when i first built this system, i had to drop my agp down to 4x in order to prevent games from freezing. Later when the newest Catalyst came out I installed and upped it back to 8x and it worked fine until one day i started getting the random blocks of colors and lines and all sorts of trash across the screen, making gameplay look like a disco scene. I updated the drivers once more and it fixed that problem but shortly went to the polygonal distortion where models in games seemed to get pulled randomly across the maps, consatntly flickering. I pulled the card out and gave it a nice cleaning as it was a bit dusty...i rebooted and played again...all was fine until 30 minutes into the game the polygons came back to haunt me. setting the agp back to 4x didnt help this time, and new and old drivers did nothing.

I came to the conclusion that it may be overheating...i have no clue yet...I also had not watched a movie in some time since the problem and when i load a movie in windvd5 the movie would be blocky and stutter...If the computer sits off for a period of time and you reboot it and play a game, movie or even friggin browsing the web it will be fine for about 30 minutes then back to polygonal/disco distortion...my best guess is a overheating issue, although my temps are correct and I have my case open with a fan blowing right into it...my solution as of now is a hammer and cement slab.

Note: this is my second ati 9800 pro, my first one had the same exact issues (but this was due to over heating) and i sent it back in for this one. Since i got this one iv had a fan blowing into it when ever running games. I really dont want to send it back in. (took me 2 weeks to get it back)

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [God of Death](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 20:28:45 GMT  
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Okay, my 9800Pro is just as bad man, I understand your pain. I can't even play Half-Life 2 or BF2 without mine crashing. I don't think mine is overheating. I can play Renegade fine, but anything that takes some actually graphic power will freeze and die.

I have a fan blowing on it and a PCI exhaust fan right up next to it.

I have not sent it to ATI yet, but I have been looking online for a solution or at least the root of the problem and have come up with nil. If you find an answer do share it, as I am growing tired of this problem.

EDIT: My 9800Pro is running on a AMD 64Bit 3500+.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Crimson](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 20:31:17 GMT  
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This same thing happened to Blazer and it turned out the fan on his video card was not spinning anymore. Sent it in for warranty repair and works great again.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [TheGunrun](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 20:38:10 GMT  
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I already sent it in for warranty repair once. Think they'll take it again?

Personally I'd rather just trade it in for my money back and get a 9600 and a better cpu. This really sucks... I have a four day weekend and all I got is my downstairs laptop 2001 VAIO. All it has is Ragnarok online and lots of anime.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Renx](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 20:44:12 GMT  
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Well first I guess you should make sure the fan is spinning. If it is then...

Download Drivercleaner 3. Uninstall your video card drivers, go into safe mode, run the drivercleaner, reinstall the newest drivers. Then try it again and see how it works. If it's still not working then you should probably try to get it replaced if it's under warranty.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 21:28:47 GMT  
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The things you are experiencing are called artifacts, which usually happen by overheating or overclocking (not saying you did overclock). I'd send it back to them one more time, and if it still does it, smash it to bits and buy an nVIDIA card (like a Geforce 6800).

EDIT: What is the temperature of the video card when it's idle and under load?

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Renx](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 21:34:09 GMT  
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If it's idling above 60C, and going over 80C easily while under load, then that's the problem.

If that's the case you could try taking off the heatsink and applying some thermal gel. Make sure you don't damage the card while doing this though, as the warranty won't cover physical damage.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [DrasticDR](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 23:14:05 GMT  
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Quote:A FIX THAT WORKED FOR ME AND A BUNCH OF OTHER PEOPLE!! READ ON!

Here we go folks, I've been having this problem for almost a year now with my computer (infinite loop and ati2dvag.dll reboot errors), and tried almost everything my mind could possible think of doing. I've tried every solution on this board, and every other board I could find relating to this file and to the infinite loop, with absolutely no success. I tried every driver package available, bios updates, agp chipset updates, every combination of every setting. I've tried reducing power usage in my computer, I've placed more power in my computer... I've added more fans and created an optimal cooling system in my computer. I made sure there were absolutely no IRQ conflicts, and nothing was using the same IRQ as my video card. I've tried with one stick of ram, with one in 1 and 3. I've tried disabling onboard sound, and putting in a soundblaster card. Nothing... I mean nothing, worked at all.

Until now! I found a solution, that has worked for me and a bunch of other people who have tested it for me.

So give it a try, perhaps it will work for you too. My computer has been working 100% since I made this change. There is a chance it could reduce the efficiency of your texture drawing with your video card... but I've tested it with :

Unreal Tournament 2004  
Rise Of Nations  
Neverwinter Nights  
Doom 3  
Max Payne 2  
Transport Giant  
and a bunch of older games....

Anyhow, no more wait, give this a shot :

Right click-mouse over My Computer  
Properties  
Hardware(Tab)  
Device Manager(button)  
Click [+] next to System devices  
right-mouse on CPU to AGP Controller (or whatever your controller is called, mine was SiS AGP)  
Update Driver(button)

Select Install from a list or specific location (Advanced)  
Next(button)  
Select Don't search. I will choose the driver to install.  
Next(button)  
Select PCI standard PCI-to-PCI bridge  
Next(button)  
Finish(button)  
Reboot.

Please let me know how this works for you.  
Good luck.

It sounds like you had the problem I had for over a year. My games would have artifacts and generally looked like crap with polygons "stretching" across the screen. The only difference is that my games would soon freeze with the sound looping.

Mine too was doing this because of overheating but I found this fix. My card has been fine ever since, with no artifacts or signs of overheating.

<http://www.techspot.com/vb/topic15393.html>

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Thu, 10 Nov 2005 23:42:47 GMT  
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Renx wrote on Thu, 10 November 2005 13:34 If it's idling above 60C, and going over 80C easily while under load, then that's the problem.

If that's the case you could try taking off the heatsink and applying some thermal gel. Make sure you don't damage the card while doing this though, as the warranty won't cover physical damage.

To give an example of how it should be, mine idles at 46C (except I haven't checked the temperature while it's under load yet).

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Fri, 11 Nov 2005 00:03:13 GMT  
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Well, I can relate from experience...I didn't find out what was happening until I dis-assembled my desktop before coming down here for college. Turns out that the fan got jammed by dust- a problem I did not make note of during routine cleaning, since the dust that jammed the fan was packed in around the drive shaft- where it is not immediately visible. I actually had to pop the fan head off and wipe the gunk out with a q-tip, because it was too tightly packed for the vacuum.

Basically, don't think that there isn't a blockage just because you can't see one.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [TheGunrun](#) on Fri, 11 Nov 2005 18:16:29 GMT  
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Ok, I've had it. I want to return my ati 9800 pro and want all 250\$ back. Can someone help me do

this? I have no idea how.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [DrasticDR](#) on Fri, 11 Nov 2005 18:31:31 GMT  
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Did you read my post first?

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [God of Death](#) on Fri, 11 Nov 2005 20:53:01 GMT  
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DrasticDR wrote on Fri, 11 November 2005 12:31Did you read my post first?

It didn't help my 9800Pro.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Caveman](#) on Fri, 11 Nov 2005 21:04:06 GMT  
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Renx wrote on Thu, 10 November 2005 14:34If it's idling above 60C, and going over 80C easily while under load, then that's the problem.

If that's the case you could try taking off the heatsink and applying some thermal gel. Make sure you don't damage the card while doing this though, as the warranty won't cover physical damage.

Your saying about idle temp above 60C... Well my FX 5950Ultra on idle runs at about 62c and when im really testing it like when i played FEAR under the most highest details and whatnot it was on a stedy 100c and nothing was happening to my GFX.. i dont know weather its just ATI being ATI or idk :s heh

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Nineball](#) on Sat, 12 Nov 2005 00:45:28 GMT  
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Many cards are designed to idle and reach high temperatures, especially the newer cards that idle at 60C on average.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [mision08](#) on Tue, 15 Nov 2005 08:38:13 GMT

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You know what to do. Send that piece back, get your money back and buy an nVidia card. I purchased the 9700 pro about 3 years ago, it cost me a fortune, and I don't like it. I don't have the same problems you are having though. I only have a FPS issue in large games, like 1 or 2 FPS when im in a pinch.

The drivers from ATI suck. The catalyst from ATI sucks. The drivers from ATI suck. The tech support sucks. Of course, the drivers suck. You have to download a tool to remove the leach ass drivers, just to install more lame ass drivers. I love the smartkeys that are included, they are absolutely useless.

That being said, it has one of the best pictures I have ever seen on a computer, and if I were going to watch a movie, I would prefer it over my 6600 GT. But I have a TV for watching movies. So give me the 6600 anyway. It was less than half the cost, and is more useful to me.

Try removing the drivers you have with the tool from ATI and use the cleaning utility from <http://www.rage3d.com/> Install the drivers from the disk unless you have a better one than that. Disable onboard audio and onboard video, Check your power supply, remove all but one dimm. Lower your video quality and resolution, If this fails, move the module to a different slot. If it fails again, toss that one to the side and use the other module. Assuming you have another one. If this fails, hammer and rock.

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**Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs**  
Posted by [icedog90](#) on Tue, 15 Nov 2005 22:30:44 GMT  
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mision08 wrote on Tue, 15 November 2005 00:38The drivers from ATI suck. The catalyst from ATI sucks. The drivers from ATI suck. The tech support sucks. Of course, the drivers suck. You have to download a tool to remove the leach ass drivers, just to install more lame ass drivers. I love the smartkeys that are included, they are absolutely useless.

WELL SAID.

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**Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs**  
Posted by [TheGunrun](#) on Sat, 19 Nov 2005 00:14:49 GMT  
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So does anyone know a way I can return my card for \$250, the amount of money I spent on this thing?

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**Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs**  
Posted by [mision08](#) on Sat, 19 Nov 2005 01:09:57 GMT  
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You need to speak with your retailer about their return policy.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [SuperFlyingEngi](#) on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 00:59:55 GMT  
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Well, I think my card just had the same problem. Yesterday, my computer wouldn't load the monitor properly, and when it finally did after several restarts, I got a message from Windows saying my recent problems were probably caused by a Radeon 9800 Pro.

And now today, after idling (no games or anything) after a bit of internet surfing, I come down to the smell of burning computer. Of course, the computer was also offline. I plucked the Radeon out, and it's hard to detect any evidence of burning, but after the smell was pretty much gone it still lingered right above the chipset on the Radeon 9800 after I had pulled it out of the case.

So, does Radeon have any sort of warranty policy on this? (My card is definitely more than a year old.)

Oh, and it's not bad to inhale that smell of burning computer, is it?

(P.S. - sorry for bumping an old topic, but I thought it would be better than making a new topic for this same thing.)

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Jaspah](#) on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 01:52:16 GMT  
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TheGunrun wrote on Fri, 18 November 2005 19:14 So does anyone know a way I can return my card for \$250, the amount of money I spent on this thing?

You won't be able to sell it back for \$250... Hell, I've bought a X800 for cheaper than that. My guess that it will be worth around \$100 these days.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [bigejoe14](#) on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 02:21:03 GMT  
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Interesting, I had to replace my 9800 PRO aswell due to an extremely bad drop in performance. Kinda sounds like there's an epedemic afoot.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs

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Posted by [rm5248](#) on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 03:35:39 GMT

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SuperFlyingEngi wrote on Tue, 14 February 2006 18:59Oh, and it's not bad to inhale that smell of burning computer, is it?

Computer = circuit board.

Circuit board = solder.

Solder = lead.

Lead = BAD.

Probably not a good idea.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs

Posted by [genetix](#) on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 04:25:29 GMT

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I have the same video card and when I bought it the salesman(good friend of mine) said that the fan WOULD need replacing. He says its really easy to do and really cheap to. You just have to replace the little motor on the fan once a year because it wears out. I really have to watch for this because I currently have my card in a server thats running 24/7.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs

Posted by [SuperFlyingEngi](#) on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 12:31:26 GMT

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rm5248 wrote on Tue, 14 February 2006 22:35SuperFlyingEngi wrote on Tue, 14 February 2006 18:59Oh, and it's not bad to inhale that smell of burning computer, is it?

Computer = circuit board.

Circuit board = solder.

Solder = lead.

Lead = BAD.

Probably not a good idea.

It smelled plasticity, not metally. Not that I'm suggesting sniffing burning circuits is good, but the solder definitely wasn't burning/evaporating as a gas.

So, anybody know what to do about my problem? Since it looks like my warranty has run out, right now I'm pretty much on the level of "throw it away and buy a new card."

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs

Posted by [mision08](#) on Wed, 15 Feb 2006 13:47:47 GMT

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Have you pulled the heat sink/fan off to look at the chip?  
I suggest removing the video card and thoroughly cleaning the fan once every couple months.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Deactivated](#) on Thu, 16 Feb 2006 13:43:07 GMT  
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j4S[p wrote on Wed, 15 February 2006 03:52]TheGunrun wrote on Fri, 18 November 2005 19:14So does anyone know a way I can return my card for \$250, the amount of money I spent on this thing?

You won't be able to sell it back for \$250... Hell, I've bought a X800 for cheaper than that. My guess that it will be worth around \$100 these days.

If you want a cheap but powerful ATI DX9c card, look for the X1600.

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [bigwig992](#) on Thu, 16 Feb 2006 20:33:15 GMT  
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<3 EVGA 6600GT PCI-E. Hasn't given me a problem since I purchased it .

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Subject: Re: Really Bad ATI 9800 pro probs  
Posted by [Kamuix](#) on Thu, 16 Feb 2006 20:55:57 GMT  
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My Radeon9200 has given me more problems since i purchased it

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