

# How can I fix the issue of the pivot table name field not being valid in Excel?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The issue of the pivot table name field not being valid in Excel can be resolved by following a few simple steps. Firstly, ensure that the name field does not contain any special characters or spaces. Secondly, check if the name is unique and not already in use. If the issue persists, try refreshing the pivot table or creating a new one. Additionally, make sure that the data source is correctly selected. By following these steps, the issue should be resolved and the pivot table name field will be valid in Excel.

## **Excel Fix: Pivot Table Name Field is Not Valid**

**You may sometimes encounter the following error in Excel when attempting to create a pivot table:**

**The PivotTable field name is not valid.**

**This error usually occurs when you attempt to create a pivot table but one of the columns in the data source you're using does not have a header.**

**To resolve this error, simply add a header name to the column(s) that are missing headers.**

**The following example shows how to resolve this error in practice.**

### **Example: How to Fix Pivot Table Name Field is Not Valid**

**Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that contains information about various basketball players:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1		<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>			
2	Mavs	Guard	22			
3	Mavs	Guard	24			
4	Mavs	Forward	25			
5	Rockets	Forward	21			
6	Rockets	Guard	14			
7	Rockets	Guard	18			
8	Spurs	Forward	15			
9	Spurs	Guard	33			
10	Spurs	Guard	20			
11	Spurs	Guard	40			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

**Notice that the first column contains team names for each player but there is no column header.**

**Suppose we would like to use this dataset to create a pivot table that summarizes the points scored by team and by position.**

**If we attempt to use the range A1:C11 to create this pivot table, we'll receive an error message:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1		<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>							
2	Mavs	Guard	22							
3	Mavs	Guard	24							
4	Mavs	Forward	25							
5	Rockets	Forward	21							
6	Rockets	Guard	14							
7	Rockets	Guard	18							
8	Spurs	Forward	15							
9	Spurs	Guard	33							
10	Spurs	Guard	20							
11	Spurs	Guard	40							
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										
17										
18										
19										
20										
21										
22										
23										
24										
25										
26										
27										

PivotTable from table or range

Select a table or range

Table/Range: Sheet1!\$A\$1:\$C\$11

Choose where you want the PivotTable to be placed

New Worksheet

Existing Worksheet


Location: Sheet1!\$E\$1

Choose whether you want to analyze multiple tables

Add this data to the Data Model

OK Cancel

Microsoft Excel

 The PivotTable field name is not valid. To create a PivotTable report, you must use data that is organized as a list with label name for the field.

OK

**We receive this error message because there is no header in cell A1.**

**To resolve this error, we can simply add a header name:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>			
2	Mavs	Guard	22			
3	Mavs	Guard	24			
4	Mavs	Forward	25			
5	Rockets	Forward	21			
6	Rockets	Guard	14			
7	Rockets	Guard	18			
8	Spurs	Forward	15			
9	Spurs	Guard	33			
10	Spurs	Guard	20			
11	Spurs	Guard	40			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

Now when we use the range A1:C11 to create a pivot table, we won't receive any error message because each column we're attempting to use now has a header name.

We will be able to successfully create the pivot table without any errors:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Sum of Points</b>	<b>Column Labels</b> ▼		
2	Mavs	Guard	22		<b>Row Labels</b> ▼	<b>Forward</b>	<b>Guard</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
3	Mavs	Guard	24		Mavs		25	46
4	Mavs	Forward	25		Rockets		21	32
5	Rockets	Forward	21		Spurs		15	93
6	Rockets	Guard	14		<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>171</b>
7	Rockets	Guard	18					
8	Spurs	Forward	15					
9	Spurs	Guard	33					
10	Spurs	Guard	20					
11	Spurs	Guard	40					
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

The following tutorials explain how to fix other common errors in Excel: