



Good housekeeping and cleaning combustibles from around your dryer will help to prevent tragedy.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there are an estimated 15,500 fires, ten deaths and ten injuries due to clothes dryer fires each year.

Several hundred people a year are affected by carbon monoxide poisoning from improper dryer vent setups, as well.

Lint is the biggest culprit here. As you see when you clean your lint filter, dryers produce very large quantities of highly combustible lint.

Most people think their lint traps catch all the lint, and that all they need to do is clean the trap after each load. Not true. A significant amount of lint is not caught by the trap. The lint builds up inside the dryer — even on the heating element!



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Preventing Clothes Dryer Fires



**Spring
cleaning is
not enough!**



WHAT CAN I DO?

It's as easy as...

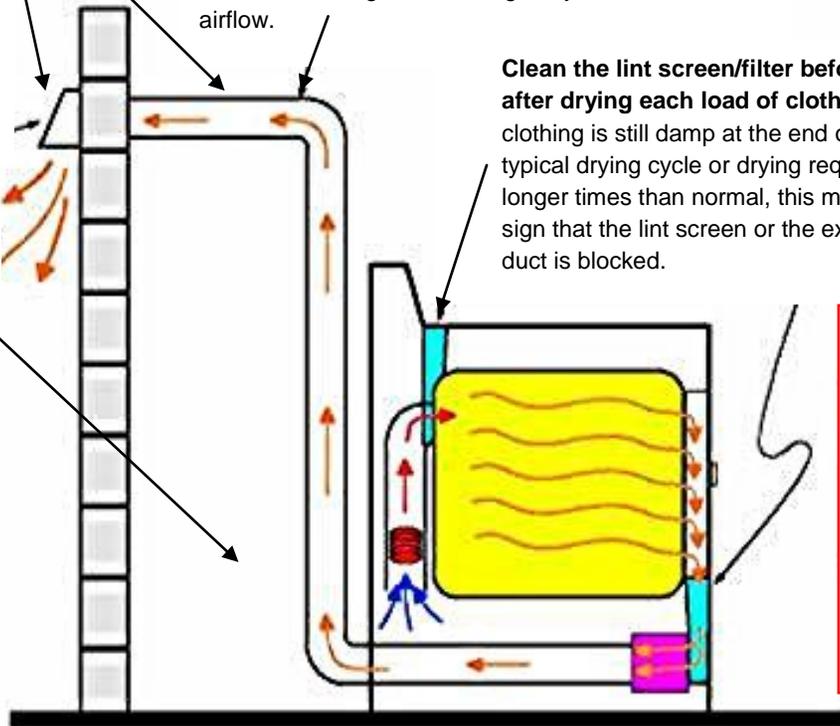
Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically.

Check the outside dryer vent while the dryer is operating to make sure exhaust air is escaping. If it is not, the vent or the exhaust duct may be blocked. To remove a blockage in the exhaust path, it may be necessary to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer. Remember to reconnect the ducting to the dryer and outside vent before using the dryer again.

Clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up. Have a qualified service person clean the interior of the dryer chassis periodically to minimize the amount of lint accumulation. Keep the area around the dryer clean and free of clutter.

Replace plastic or foil, accordion-type ducting material with rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct. Most manufacturers specify the use of a rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct, which provides maximum airflow. The flexible plastic or foil type duct can more easily trap lint and is more susceptible to kinks or crushing, which can greatly reduce the airflow.

Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes. If clothing is still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle or drying requires longer times than normal, this may be a sign that the lint screen or the exhaust duct is blocked.



Never let your clothes dryer run while you are out of the house or even worse, when you are asleep. If all else fails, you can always use an old-fashioned clothesline. There have never been any reported clothesline fires!

Move your dryer out, unplug it and open the back or simply pull out the lint trap and look underneath it. You may find large mounds of lint, lost toys, that sock that disappeared, and anything your kids had stuffed in their pockets staring at you. Sometimes you may find enough cash for lunch the next day!



Take special care when drying clothes that have been soiled with volatile chemicals such as gasoline, cooking oils, cleaning agents, or finishing oils and stains. If possible, wash the clothing more than once to minimize the amount of volatile chemicals on the clothes and, preferably, hang the clothes to dry. If using a dryer, use the lowest heat setting and a drying cycle that has a cool-down period at the end of the cycle. To prevent clothes from igniting after drying, do not leave the dried clothes in the dryer or piled in a laundry basket.