

Prevent Dryer Fires

In 2008, there were 99 dryer fires that caused three civilian deaths, five civilian injuries, three firefighter injuries and \$1.4 million in damages. Over three-quarters, 77%, occurred in 1- & 2-family homes.



- **Clean the filter screen after each load.**
This will keep the vent clear. When accumulated lint clogs the vent, the dryer can overheat and a fire could result.
- **Wash filter screen every 6 months.**
Wash with warm, soapy water and a soft brush to remove chemical residues left by dryer sheets which can clog the filter and overheat the dryer causing a fire.
- **Stay home while the dryer is in use!**
Turn off the dryer before leaving the house.
- **Clean vents to outside.**
Twice a year you should clean the hose pipe that vents to the outside. Use the vacuum cleaner to suck out accumulated dust and lint.
- **Vacuum the motor area.**
The dust and lint in the vent pipe can ignite if it gets hot enough. Vacuum the motor area if you can get to it. You may have to remove a panel.
- **Clean commercial dryer vents regularly.**
Commercial dryers get a lot of use and will have a common venting system.
- **Don't dry mop heads.**
The dryer's heat can ignite the cleaning chemical residue on mop heads.
- **Keep surrounding area clear.**
Don't leave clothing or other ordinary combustibles too close to the dryer. The dryer's heat may ignite them.



FireFACTORS

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