



TOOLBOX TALK: Home Clothes Dryer Fires

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Facts about home clothes dryer fires

- 2,900 home clothes dryer fires are reported each year and cause an estimated 5 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss.
- The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean. More home clothes dryer fires occur in the fall and winter months, peaking in January.

Clothes Dryer Dos

Cleaning

- Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months.
- Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.

Maintenance

- Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted.
- Put a covering on outside wall dampers to keep out rain, snow and dirt.
- Make sure the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is on.
- Replace coiled-wire foil or plastic venting with rigid, non-ribbed metal duct.

- Have gas-powered dryers inspected every year by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are together and free of leaks.
- Check regularly to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent.
- Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn.

Clothes Dryer Don'ts

- Don't use a clothes dryer without a lint filter or with a lint filter that is loose, damaged or clogged.
- Don't overload the dryer.
- Don't use a wire screen or cloth to cover the wall damper. They can collect lint and clog the dryer vent.
- Don't dry anything containing foam, rubber or plastic. An example of an item not to place in a dryer is a bathroom rug with a rubber backing.
- Don't leave a clothes dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed.