



Clothes Dryer & Washing Machine Safety

The **leading cause** of home clothes dryer and washer fires is failure to clean them.

SAFETY TIPS

- **Have** your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- **Do not operate** the dryer without a lint filter. Clean the lint filter before or after each use. Remove accumulated lint around the drum.
- **Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used** to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- **Make sure** the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- **Keep** dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- **Make sure** the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- **Avoid overloading** a washing machine or dryer. Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- **Do not leave** a dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed.
- **Washing machines and dryers should be** properly grounded.
- **Make sure** sure the outdoor vent flap is not covered by snow.
- **Never dry** items that have come in contact with flammable substances, such as cooking oil, gasoline, paint thinner, alcohol.
- **Keep** the dryer area clear of things that can burn, such as boxes or clothing.



— Your Source for SAFETY Information —