

DRYER SAFETY



The leading cause of home dryer fires is failure to clean them. Fires can occur if there is a build-up of lint in the dryer or the exhaust duct. Lint can block the flow of air which can cause excessive heat build-up, resulting in fire.



Every year firefighters across the U.S. respond to approximately 15,050 home fires caused by dryers.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

**(714) 573-6200
ocfa.org**



Dryer Safety Tips

- Keep your dryer in good working condition. Gas dryers should be installed and inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connections are intact and free of leaks.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions for your dryer.
- Keep the dryer area clear of all combustibles.
- Replace coiled-wire foil or plastic venting with a rigid, non-ribbed metal duct. This provides maximum air flow and reduces fire risk.
- Make sure your dryer's air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and that the outdoor vent flap opens when the dryer is operating.

Things to Remember

- Do not use a dryer that doesn't have a lint filter.
- Clean the lint filter before or after drying each load of laundry. Be sure to clean behind the dryer where lint can build up.
- If laundry is still damp at the end of the drying cycle, or if drying requires a longer time than normal, this may be a sign that the lint filter or exhaust duct is blocked.
- Don't dry items that have come in contact with anything flammable such as alcohol, cooking oils, or gasoline. Dry these items outdoors or in a well-ventilated area away from heat.
- Never overload your dryer.
- Turn your dryer off if you leave your house or when you go to bed.
- If you plan to be away from home for a long period of time, unplug or disconnect your dryer.