

Laundry Room Fire Safety

The dryer stopped working. After going to the laundromat a few times, it is time to replace the old machine. As the guy is installing the new machine, he points out how much lint had amassed in the vent ducts because of a tear in the lint trap. Luckily, the disaster that could have happened did not. Many are not so lucky. Follow these tips for prevention.

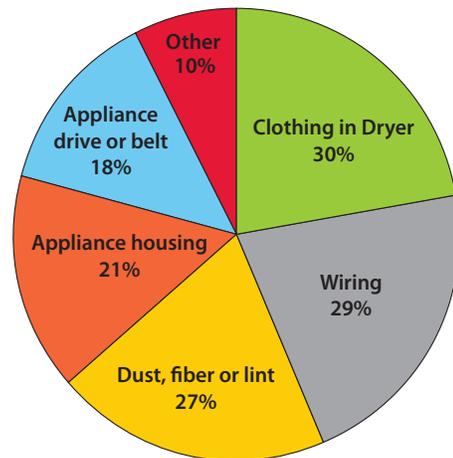
Prevention

Dryers work by circulating hot air around and through damp fabrics. If the air can't circulate, the dryer just gets hot and the combustible clothing inside becomes fuel for a fire.

- **Keep the lint trap clean**
Clean between each load of laundry.
- **Keep the ducting clean by checking regularly**
Located at the back of the dryer, usually a metal clamp is holding the hose to the dryer, pop it off and make sure lint has not collected.
- **Check the end of the dryer vent**
Hot air is released outside through the vent when the dryer is running, check that it's not clogged with dryer lint.



What causes a laundry room fire to ignite?



Laundry Room Safety Hazards

- Do not to store combustible materials near the dryer.
- Don't dry items stained with combustible fluids like gasoline or furniture polish.
- Replace flexible foil or plastic dryer ducts with those made from metal.
- Washers and dryers should be plugged into properly grounded outlets to prevent electrical shock.
- If your furnace is near the laundry room, be sure not to hang clothing or drop dryer lint near it.

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