

Prevent Dryer Fires

In 2018, there were 62 dryer fires that caused four civilian injuries, 2 firefighter injuries, and \$530,670 in property damage. Over half of the fires, 52%, occurred in 1- and 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 can 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 the outdoors

Clean the hose pipe that vents to the outdoors twice a year. Use a vacuum cleaner to clean 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

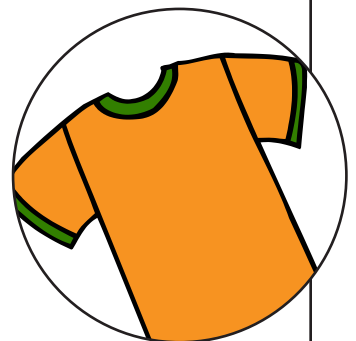
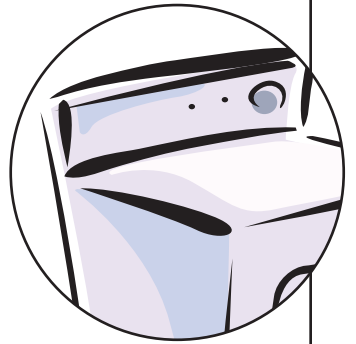
Commercial dryers get a lot of use and will have a common venting system.

Don't dry mop heads

The dryer's heat can ignite cleaning chemical residue on mop heads.

Keep the surrounding area clear

Don't leave clothing or other ordinary combustibles close to the dryer. The dryer's heat may ignite them.



FireFactors

Office of the State Fire Marshal • www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3380