



Signs Your Dryer May be Failing:

- The clothes are taking a long period of time to dry.
 - Smell unusual odor while dryer is in use.
 - See smoke while dryer in use.
- Immediate Maintenance is Needed in these Cases!***

Information was obtained through the following:

- U.S. Consumer Public Safety Commission
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Fire Protection Association
- Gila River Building Safety
- Gila River Fire Department – Fire Prevention

The Departments serving you have assembled important facts and ways to help prevent a fire in your home involving a clothes dryer.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the appropriate department listed below:

Building Safety:
520-562-6039

Housing Development:
520-562-1863

Community Services:
520-562-9690

Fire Department:
520-796-5900



PREVENTION



How Dryer Fires Occur

Lint buildup and blocking airflow could start a dryer fire. Lint is a highly combustible material, easy to burn which makes it very dangerous. Many dryer vent problems contribute to this.



Facts

- Dryers produce very large quantities of lint.
- Lint traps do not catch it all.
- Lint can build up on the heating element and in other places inside the dryer.
- The dryer can play a key role in this process.
- Some vents are too long and/or have too many bends and traps lint.

How You Can Prevent a Fire

- 1) Clean the lint screen/filter before and after each use.
- 2) Make sure the dryer duct is made of solid metallic material. Vinyl and foil burn easily and the spiral surfaces can catch lint more rapidly.
- 3) The dryer duct should vent to the outside and in no case should it vent to the attic or crawlspace. Use a 4-inch diameter vent pipe for dryer duct.
- 4) Avoid kinking or crushing the dryer duct in tight areas which blocks airflow.
- 5) Minimize the length of the exhaust duct, keep as short as possible.
- 6) Clean behind and around the dryer, where lint can build up.
- 7) Do not wash and dry clothes that have been soiled with flammable chemicals, let them dry outside.
- 8) Clean the vent duct and dryer drum of lint.
- 9) Never let your clothes dryer run while you are out of the house or when you are asleep.
- 10) Ensure you have a Fire Extinguisher readily available at all times.

**National Fire Protection Association*

Always

- Keep the area around the dryer free of chemicals or items that could easily burn.
- Make sure the outside vent flap is clear and not blocked. Assistance is available to check roof vents if needed by Department of Housing Development @ 520-562-1863



Remember!

- The leading cause of home clothing dryer fires is the failure to clean them!*
- Know Where your Fire Extinguisher is located!
- Know How to Use Your Fire Extinguisher!
- DO NOT USE YOUR DRYER WHILE NOT HOME!