



Important information about Dryer Safety:

Most of us take the safety of clothes dryers for granted. However, nationally the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 24,000 fires occur annually because of clothes dryers. Clothes dryers are the leading cause of fires in OPWDD-certified residences.

- ❖ **READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS SUPPLIED WITH YOUR DRYER AND KEEP THEM AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE. FAMILARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THE DRYER.**

Nearly all of the fires caused by clothes dryers can be prevented. Avoid over drying clothing materials and do not use dryer for items other than for which it is designed. Drying certain items in the clothes dryers can cause a fire because such items may spontaneously combust, or start to burn all by themselves if the conditions are right! DO NOT USE CLOTHES DRYERS TO DRY:

- ❖ **Any item containing plastic, foam rubber, or rubber-like materials.**
- ❖ **Any item that has had anything flammable on it, even though it has been washed.**
- ❖ **Any items that have ever had any type of oil on it, INCLUDING COOKING OIL. Washers cannot completely remove oil even though the items may appear clean. The safest practice is to use paper towels or disposable cloths to wipe up anything oily, including oily pans, and then throw them away safely.**
- ❖ **Dryer sheets (fabric softener sheets) if the package does not state specifically that they are safe to use in a dryer.**
- ❖ **Garments cleaned with dry cleaning fluid.**

Accumulated lint can catch on fire!

- ❖ **Remove and clean the lint screen before each load.**
- ❖ **Check the outside exhaust vent at least twice a year (Spring and Fall) and more often if the dryer is used frequently to remove any lint that is blocking air flow.**

- ❖ **Be aware if clothing requires a longer time than usual to dry, the exhaust or lint screen may be blocked and should be checked.**
- ❖ **Do not overload dryer with excessive clothing. This causes lint to block the vent, which delays clothes drying and extends motor operation.**

The heat from dryers can ignite flammable materials and vapor!

- ❖ **Keep all flammable materials away from dryers, furnaces or other heat sources, including clothing, flammable cleaning supplies and dry cleaning supplies. Check the label to see if an item is flammable.**

Do not run a dryer when no one is home. Remain nearby and vigilant while a dryer is operating.



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