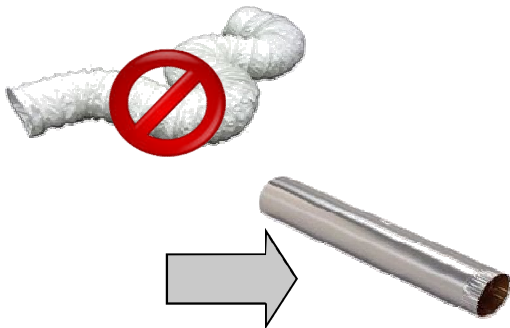


## THE SCIENCE OF DRYER FIRES

A clothes dryer works by forcing hot air through a turning drum. Wet clothes placed in the drum are then dried by the moving hot air. It is possible for a full load of wet clothes to contain as much as one and a half gallons of water. Lint is created from the clothes as the water is removed and the clothes dry. While much of the lint is trapped by the dryer's filter, lint also is carried through the venting system, together with moist air. The accumulation of lint, both in the dryer and in the dryer vent, reduces the airflow and creates a highly flammable fuel source.

### CHANGE THE FLEX PIPE...

Most dryers feature white vinyl or foil accordion-type exhaust pipe. Most appliance manufacturers recommend that you replace that material with rigid or semi-rigid metal piping, it is less likely to trap lint and increases air flow.



A FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE FROM  
THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE  
SAFETY AND YOUR LOCAL FIRE SERVICE



[www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/)



Lori Grifa Commissioner  
Department of Community Affairs



Chris Christie  
Governor

New Jersey Division  
Of Fire Safety

FIRE SAFETY FACTS

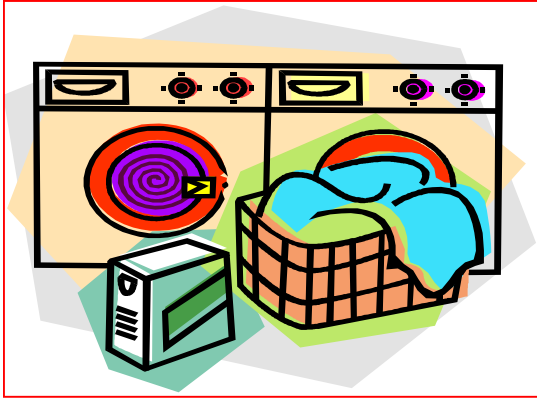


**PREVENTING  
A CLOTHES  
DRYER  
FIRE**

[www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/)

## FIRE SAFETY FIXES....things that YOU can do!

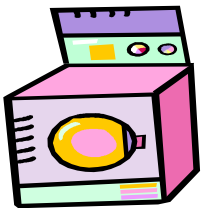
### FIRE SAFETY FACTS



**FACT:** More than 13,000 fires a year start in laundry rooms or laundry areas.

**FACT:** Nearly 4000 of those are directly caused by lint buildup either in the dryer itself or in the vent pipe.

**FACT:** Though statistically less than fires caused by smoking or cooking related fires, people do die, and hundreds are injured every year.



*In most cases, clothes dryer fires can be prevented. "Failure to clean" is the number one factor contributing to clothes dryer fires, followed by mechanical and electrical failure. Clogged dryer vents occurring from lint buildup may make the dryer operate incorrectly and raise the temperature of the dryer machinery high enough to ignite lint or nearby combustibles. Follow the recommended safety tips for operating clothes dryers safely.*

#### **CHECK THE SCREEN...**

All clothes dryers have a lint filter located inside the door. Not only is it wise to clean the screen of lint after each use, but to use a brush to remove buildup of fiber. A clean filter can save you up 5% annually on your electric bill too!

#### **CHECK THE EXHAUST PIPE...**

Your car exhaust will tell you when its time to replace it but your dryer pipe requires a closer look. It may be necessary to disconnect the pipe from the appliance to make sure there are no obstructions. A good way to check is go outdoors and feel the volume of exhaust. However even if there is a strong air flow an actual look is better. Remember to reconnect the ductwork to the dryer and the vent correctly.

#### **CHECK BEHIND THE DRYER...**

The area behind the dryer and the wall is a potential hazard as well as inside the dryer. Have a qualified service person clean the dryer chassis periodically as well as to remove any clothing that may have fallen behind it

#### **CHECK THE CLOTHES...**

Clothing that contains volatile chemicals, solvents, oils, and gasoline should be laundered 2x or more. Use a low heat setting. Do not accumulate such clothing in the dryer or laundry basket.

#### **NEVER...**

***Let your clothes dryer run while you are out of the house or asleep.***