



CLEVELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Serving You Since 1895

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

FACT

! The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**. Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc. Clothes that

have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Your Cleveland Fire Department prides itself on being good neighbors in our community. Did you know we do a whole lot more than just responding to 9-1-1 calls?

Last year alone, our Inspection Division made over 3,800 contacts in an effort to keep homes and businesses safe. In that same timeframe, CFD members also held nearly 100 special events related to our Fire Prevention Program; these events helped us deliver our message of fire safety to almost 9,000 area children and caregivers!

To-date, CFD members have also completed pre-fire building plans of over 500 area businesses. These business overviews are an invaluable tool that aid Cleveland's Finest in critical decision-making during emergencies when seconds count!



From springtime American Flag retirement ceremonies (we've collected nearly 1,000 flags!) and Honor Guard events to fire prevention and station tours, your Cleveland Fire Department continually strives to raise the bar for community outreach in The City With Spirit. Please feel free to stop in and say hello sometime; get to know your neighbors! And remember: now, as always, it is our honor to serve you!



Follow us on Facebook for more updates as they are made available, and remember: it is our honor to serve you!