



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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Dryers and Washing Machines

Washer & Dryer Facts:

In 2010-2014, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an estimated 15,970 home fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines each year. These fires resulted in annual losses estimated at 13 civilian deaths, 440 civilian injuries, and \$238 million in direct property damage.

Clothes dryers accounted for 92% of the fires; washing machines 4%, and washer and dryer combinations accounted for 5%.

The leading factor contributing to the ignition of home fires involving clothes dryers was failure to clean, accounting for one-third (33%) of dryer fires.

A mechanical or electrical failure or malfunction was involved in the vast majority of home fires involving

washing machines.

Fires involving clothes dryers usually started with the ignition of something that was being dried or was a byproduct (such as lint) of drying, while washing machine fires usually involved the ignition of some part of the appliance.



Safety Tips

- 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.

Always Remember

- 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.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.
- Never overload a dryer.

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Safety-in-the-home/Dryers-and-washing-machines>

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

D
O
DOUBLE STEP
B GAS
L
E

Answers to last month's wuzzles are standing order & last resort.

Fire Safety Quiz

1. It is not okay to leave the house with the dryer running.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. The leading product that contributes to most dryer fires is _____.
 - A. clothing
 - B. wiring
 - C. lint, dust or fiber
 - D. conveyor or drive belt

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. B. & 2. B.

BRAVERY—The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy. – John F. Kennedy

Make sure the air 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.

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.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to: valdostafire@valdostacity.com



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief