Office of Fire Prevention and Control

Bureau of Fire Prevention

Campus Fire Safety Bulletin

Prevention Through Education

Clothes Dryers and Vent Maintenance

The clothes dryer is a wonderful thing. As a time and labor saving appliance, it is both a convenience and a necessity. It can also be a danger. Dryers bring together, in sometimes perfect concert, all the ingredients needed for an unwanted fire: heat, air and fuel. Good dryer maintenance is all about controlling the fuel. That's why it's important to clean dryers, lint traps and vents on a yearly basis, and in busy dormitory laundry rooms, perhaps even more often . Many manufacturers recommend that a qualified person clean the lint from the inside of the dryer. Review the owner's manual for more information.

Clothes dryer fires account for about 15,000 structure fires, 15 deaths and 400 injuries annually. "Failure to clean" is the leading factor contributing to clothes dryer fires in residential buildings.

For more information see:
"Clothes Dryer Fires in Residential Buildings" at
www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/residential_structures.shtm

Are lint bunnies living in your laundry room?

Property Maintenance Code §607.1 General. Duct systems shall be maintained free of obstructions and shall be capable of performing the required function.

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