

DRYER SAFETY – VENTING

Are you at risk?

Your dryer has the potential to ignite a fire in your home. In some cases, the installation and venting put you at high risk. Higher risk installations include those where:

- the vent is of the vinyl or foil type
- the vent has an accumulation of lint, either from lack of cleaning, excessive length, or poor routing
- the dryer vent trap is not cleaned enough

Dryers Cause Fires

Although data from Canada is limited, we can witness the results in the U.S. due to the use of identical materials and practices. On average in the U.S., clothes dryer fires account for about 15,600 structure fires, 15 deaths, and 400 injuries annually.



Fires originated most frequently from two places: dryer venting and the lint trap, due to improper vent cleaning and the use of improper dryer venting.

Standards Have Changed

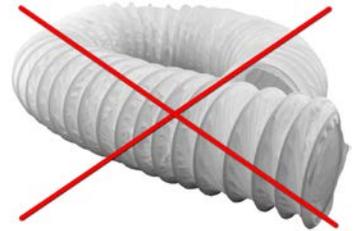
Although metal pipe is now standard, many dryers still use white plastic dryer vent hose kits. As it turns out, these combustible white plastic hose kits are deadly when improperly used as dryer venting. These hoses are the reason for many dryer vent fires. However, until recently they were still commonly sold as dryer venting.



All manufacturers now state in their manuals not to use plastic flexible dryer ducts between the vent exit and the clothes dryer. However, many homes, as well as some new construction homes, continue to use plastic flexible ducts.

It was not until December 2006 that Underwriters Laboratories established UL-2158A "Clothes Dryer Transition Duct" which is

an approved standard for flexible high temperature exhaust duct rated to 430°F (220°C), that can also be used on both electric and gas dryers.



When you go to the hardware store you may see flexible duct with a UL listing of UL-181B "Closure Systems for Use with Flexible Air Ducts and Air Connectors" however *this standard is for flexible plastic and metal heating and cooling ductwork and vent fans such as in your bathroom*. This standard UL-181B and these products are not for use as a dryer vent. Only flexible ductwork meeting UL 2158A can be used as dryer venting.

It's up to you

You can be safe: Just use only non-combustible venting and clean lint traps and vents regularly. With these simple precautions, your home will be that much safer.



References:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v7i1.pdf>

<http://homerepair.about.com/od/heatingcoolingrepair/ss/dryerventsafety.htm>

www.mymutualinsurance.ca

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