



110 Broadway P.O. Box 627 Hornell, NY 14843-0627 (607) 324-2100 Fax: (607) 324-3150

## HORNELL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



**Dryers are one of the leading causes of residential fires in the United States. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) estimates there are about 3,000 dryer-related fires every year. Eighty-four percent of these fires take place in residential buildings – 77% being in one and two-family residences.**

The leading cause of dryer fires is failure to clean – specifically, the accumulation of lint in the lint screen, exhaust vent, and inside the dryer itself. This highly flammable buildup can ignite from the dryer's heat. Other major causes include improper installation, overloading, and drying items soaked in flammable substances like gasoline or oil.

### **Other significant causes**

- **Improper installation:**

Using flexible plastic or foil venting is risky because these materials can kink more easily and trap lint, whereas rigid or flexible metal venting is recommended.

- **Overloading:**

A dryer packed too full cannot properly ventilate, leading to overheating and increased fire risk.

- **Flammable items:**

Items that have come into contact with flammable substances, like cleaning rags with oil or gasoline, can ignite even at lower temperatures.



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- **Electrical issues:** Faulty wiring or motor problems can also cause fires, though these are less common than lint-related incidents.

### How to prevent dryer fires

- **Clean lint:**  
Always clean the lint screen before or after each use and perform a deep vent cleaning periodically.
- **Inspect your vent:**  
Use rigid or flexible metal venting. Check the entire length of the vent for blockages or kinks.
- **Don't overload:**  
Ensure there is enough space for clothes to tumble freely and for air to circulate.
- **Mind the materials:**  
Never put items containing flammable liquids in the dryer.
- **Professional installation:**  
Have your dryer and its venting installed by a professional.
- **Never leave a dryer running unattended** or when no one is home.

For more information contact the **Hornell Fire department at 607-324-2100**. You can also find helpful prevention videos and tips on YouTube.