



# Prevent Dryer Fires

Approximately 4,000 Americans die 20,000 are injured in fires each year. Most fires are preventable by simply practicing basic fire safety habits. The Apartment Association of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Fire Department, and the U. S. Fire Administration want everyone to prevent dryer fires by practicing the following simple steps.

## **Clean the filter screen after each load.**

*This will keep the vent clear. When accumulated lint clogs the vent, the dryer can overheat and a fire could result.*

## **Wash the filter screen every 6 months.**

*Wash with warm, soapy water and a soft brush to remove chemical residues left by dryer sheets which can clog the filter and overheat the dryer causing a fire.*

## **Stay home while the dryer is in use!**

*Turn off the dryer before leaving the house or when going to bed.*

## **Clean vents to outside.**

*Twice a year you should clean the hose pipe that vents to the outside. Use the vacuum cleaner to suck out accumulated dust and lint. Professional services are also available for vent cleaning.*

## **Vacuum the motor area.**

*The dust and lint in the vent pipe can ignite if it gets hot enough. Vacuum the motor area if you can get to it.*

## **Don't dry mop heads.**

*The dryer's heat can ignite the cleaning chemical residue on mop heads.*

## **Keep surrounding area clear.**

*Don't leave clothing or other ordinary combustibles too close to the dryer. The dryer's heat may ignite them.*

## **Clean commercial dryer vents regularly.**

*Commercial dryers get a lot of use and will have a common venting system. Watch for signs of improper maintenance and report them to the manager immediately.*

### **For More Information Contact:**

**The U. S. Fire Administration**  
301-447-1000  
[www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov)



**Fort Wayne Fire Department**  
**Safety Education**  
260-427-1483; 427-1368; 427-5179  
[www.fortwaynefiredepartment.org](http://www.fortwaynefiredepartment.org)