

Keep it clean,
safe & working
efficiently



Protecting local
communities



Tumble dryers, washing machines and dishwashers CAN and DO cause house fires

If you don't clean and maintain your machine you run the risk of fire.

Your machine contains powerful motors with fast moving parts that get very hot and could set fire to excess fluff or lint that builds up over time.

Regular cleaning removes fluff and lint reducing the risk of fire. So clean the filter after every use and never ever leave your dryer, washing machine or dishwasher running unattended or overnight.

Keeping the filter clean may save you more than you think.

1. It will save you money by using less power
2. It will save you time drying your clothes much quicker
3. It might save your life by reducing the risk of a house fire
4. It will save you expensive repair costs

**IF YOU HAVE A HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE FIRE,
CLOSE ANY DOORS, CALL 999
GET OUT AND STAY OUT**

Top safety tips

1. After each use

- Clean the fluff or lint filter
- Condenser dryers - drawer at top or base of machine needs emptying

2. Every 6 months

- Vacuum areas where the fluff or lint builds up
- Vacuum heater area, blower housing & vent pipe connection
- Check external vent (if fitted)
- Condenser dryers - clean condenser unit at base of machine

3. Once a year

- Remove and check vent pipe for fluff or lint



Most fluff filters are found inside the door rim or sometimes on the door itself. On older models they might be on the back of the drum.

Look after your dryer:

- Always read and follow manufacturer's instructions before using your dryer
- Never overload your dryer or put items in that have been used to soak up flammable liquids
- Keep it well ventilated ensuring the vent pipe is kink free, not blocked or crushed in any way
- Never leave it unattended or run it overnight
- Have it serviced regularly by a qualified engineer.

Don't ignore the warning signs:

- Does your tumble dryer smell of burning? Always unplug it before opening it to investigate.
- Are your clothes taking longer to dry, especially heavy items such as towels or jeans?
- Do the clothes feel hotter than usual at the end of the cycle?
- Does the external vent flap stay shut when the dryer is on?

If you notice any of the above, clean the filter and check the vent pipe immediately.

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Find out more at www.clevelandfire.gov.uk

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