**Dryer maintenance tips: Gas & Electric**

**Vent**

Your dryer vent pipe should be made of aluminum. The white vinyl duct that was common several years ago no longer meets most building codes, because if your dryer ignites it, a fire may start in your home.

Check the entire length of the vent pipe for lint build-up at least once a year--or more often if the dryer gets a lot of use.

Note… Remove the lint from the duct--don't just push it back into the dryer or let it clog any part of the vent.

You can tackle lint build-up in the duct with our Vent Brush for Cleaning 4" Round Dryer

Vent accessory. It's available in 10- and 20- foot lengths.

**Interior of dryer cabinet**

The lint produced by clothes tumbling in a dryer is normally trapped by the lint filter.

However, some lint invariably escapes and accumulates on the inside of the dryer cabinet. At least once a year, check the inside of the cabinet, and clean it if necessary. Do this more frequently if the dryer is used heavily.

**Lint filter**

Check and clean the lint filter after every drying cycle. If the lint filter has any rips or tears, replace it. If the filter gets clogged by fabric softener residue or any other residue, you can easily clean it with a soft-bristle brush and a little detergent.

**Area under lint filter**

You can also clean the chute, duct, or area that the lint filter fits into. If necessary, use a vacuum cleaner to reach into the duct and clean out any lint.

Note… If the lint build-up is severe, it's important to disassemble the dryer and clean out the lint more thoroughly. This is often a job for a qualified appliance repair technician, because there's a risk of injuring yourself or damaging the machine.

Dryer frequently asked questions

**[How long should it take for my clothes to dry?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/67/Dryer-How-Long-Should-It-Take-For-My-Clothes-To-Dry?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fDryer-Maintenance-Tips)**

Most dryers can dry a full load of laundry in fewer than 60 minutes. If the load is still damp, the venting system is likely clogged and you’ll need to clean it out as soon as possible.

**[Do I really need to clean out my dryer’s lint filter after every load?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/68/Dryer-Do-I-Really-Need-To-Clean-Out-My-Dryers-Lint-Filter-After-Every-Load?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fDryer-Maintenance-Tips)**

Yes, air flow restriction is extremely dangerous. Clean it after each load.

**[How can I reduce my dryer’s energy consumption?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/153/Dryer-How-Can-I-Reduce-My-Dryers-Energy-Consumption?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fDryer-Maintenance-Tips)**

Don’t overload your dryer. Follow the owner’s manual for instructions on load sizes for your particular model. Clean out the lint filter after every load and once per year, clean out the entire venting system. Pay attention to drying times so that you’ll know when there is a problem.

**[What’s better – fabric softener sheets or liquid fabric softener?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/154/Dryer-Whats-Better-Fabric-Softener-Sheets-Or-Liquid-Fabric-Softener?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fDryer-Maintenance-Tips)**

We’ve found that liquid fabric softener does a noticeably better job softening fabric and reducing static cling. Additionally, softener sheets leave a residue that may clog the dryer’s lint filter screen. If this happens, you can remove the residue using a small amount of laundry detergent and a soft-bristle brush and a cotton ball doused with a small amount of rubbing alcohol. Make sure the filter is fully dry before returning to the filter chute.

Also, due to their stickiness, softener sheets have been known to find their way into the lint filter chute, within the dryer’s interior and within the vents –attracting lint and leading to buildup.

**[Is it important for my dryer to be level?](http://www.repairclinic.com/RepairHelp/FAQ/73/Dryer-Is-It-Important-For-My-Dryer-To-Be-Level?r=%2fRepairHelp%2fDryer-Maintenance-Tips)**

Yes. All appliances perform best when set up properly. If a dryer is not level, it can cause components to wear out prematurely.