



## DRYER SAFETY



Clothes dryers account for the largest share of appliance and tool fires.

### Facts and Figures

- Dryers and washing machines were involved in one out of every 25 home structure fires reported to the U.S. Fire Departments in 1999-2002.
- Dryers and washing machines were involved in an average of 13,300 home structure fires per year between 1999 and 2002. These fires caused an average of 10 deaths, 280 injuries, and \$97 million in direct property damage per year.
- Clothes dryers accounted for 93% of the fires
- The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires was lack of maintenance (30%), followed by unidentified or unknown type mechanical failure (19%), and part failure, leak or break (16%).
- Clothing (not on a person) was the most common source of ignition in home clothes dryer fires, followed by dust, fiber or lint.

### Safety Tips

- Do not operate the dryer without a lint filter. Clean lint filters before or after each use and remove accumulated lint from around the drum.
- Make sure that the dryer is plugged into an outlet suitable for its electrical needs as overloaded electrical outlets can result in blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers.
- Turn the dryer off when leaving the home.
- Keep the dryer area clear of combustibles (i.e., boxes or clothing).
- Dryers should be installed and serviced by a professional.
- Have gas-powered dryers inspected by a professional regularly to ensure that the gas line and connection are intact.

Take the time to check the dryer.