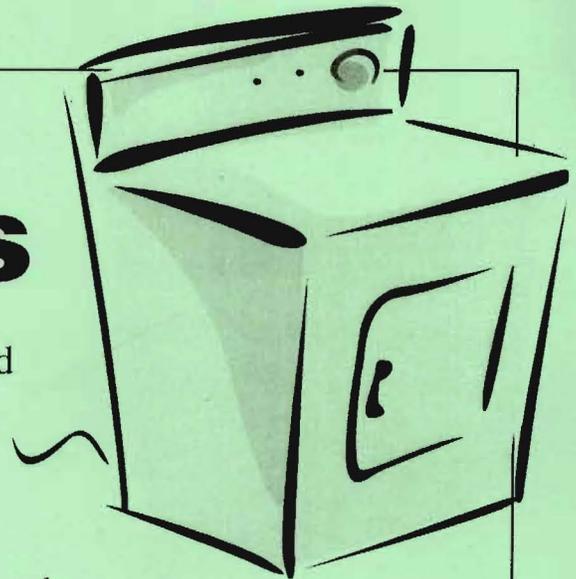


# Prevent Dryer Fires



In 2007, there were 117 dryer fires that caused 2 civilian injuries, 2 firefighter injuries and \$641,032 in damages. More than 60% occurred in 1- & 2-family homes.

- **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 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.*

- **Clean vents to outside.**

*Twice a year you should clean the plastic hose pipe that vents to the outside. Use the vacuum cleaner to suck out accumulated dust and lint.*

- **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. You may have to remove a panel.*

- **Clean commercial dryer vents regularly.**

*Commercial dryers get a lot of use and will have a common venting system.*

- **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.*



## **FireFACTORS**

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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