

Dryer Fire Caution*Consumer Reports*

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As many as 16,000 fires start in the laundry room every year when lint from clothes dryers builds up and catches fire. Those fires result in up to 20 deaths per year. The following safety information from *Consumer Reports* can help you to prevent a disaster.

Consumer Reports says that flexible dryer ducts made of foil or plastic are the most problematic because they can sag and let lint build up at low points. Ridges can also trap lint. Flexible or solid metal ducts are far safer because they don't sag, so lint is less likely to build up. In addition, if a fire does start, a metal duct is more likely to contain it.

No matter which kind of duct you have, you should clean it regularly. In addition, clean the lint screen each time you use your dryer. This not only will reduce the risk of a fire, but your dryer will dry your clothes faster and use less energy.

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