



Prevent The Risk Of Washer And Dryer Damage

Clothes dryers start more residential fires than any other household appliance.

Washing machine tips:

Water damage to your home can be costly. Leaks from ruptured hoses, connection seepage and lack of proper machine maintenance can turn an area into a mini-flood zone. Take the following precautions to reduce damage from accidental water leakage:

- » Because hoses deteriorate from the inside out and damage can be extensive if the hose breaks, install metal mesh, burst-resistant water hoses on the washing machine.
- » Place a drip pan under the washing machine.
- » Never leave the premises after starting the washing machine.
- » Install single-lever water shut-off valves and turn them to the “off” position when the machine is not in use.
- » Use lint traps on discharge hoses to prevent drain clogs.
- » Keep drainage sinks free of rags and other items that could potentially block the drain.
- » Inspect and clean floor drains regularly.
- » Do not install washing machines in an area subject to freezing because internal parts containing water may become cracked and damaged

Dryer fire prevention:

The Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates that over 24,000 dryer fires occur each year in the United States, causing more than \$96 million in property damage. The leading causes of dryer fires are lack of maintenance and lint build-up. When lint builds up in vents, the motor labors harder and can overheat, igniting the lint. While vacuuming the back of dryers can help eliminate lint built-up, the following components should also be considered:

- » Use non-plastic vent hoses.
- » Make sure vent hoses are not disconnected from the dryer, ripped or crushed behind the dryer.
- » Remove lint from lint screen compartments after each use.
- » Remove any debris (e.g., bird nests) from dryer vents.
- » Never leave the premises after starting the dryer.
- » Check screens placed over exhaust point for possible blockages.
- » If possible, correct poor building and vent design and wrong exhaust hoods.
- » Properly ground clothes washers to reduce the possibility of an electrical shock hazard.

For more information about American Family’s Loss Control Services, visit www.amfam.com

DISCLAIMER

The recommendations printed here follow generally accepted safety standards. Compliance with these recommendations does not guarantee that you will be in conformance with any building code, or federal, state or local regulations regarding safety or fire. Compliance does not ensure the absolute safety of you or your home.