

Customer Service | My Account | Bookstore | Donate | Our Web Sites | Site Features

News | Blogs | Forums | Videos



Home > Blogs > Home & Garden Blog

Top Product Ratings: Washing Machines | Vacuum Cleaners | Refrigerators | Dishwashers | Clothes Dryers | Ranges | Microwave Ovens

CR SUBSCRIBER CONTENT

Home & Garden Blog

Subscribe to Home & Garden Blog

More Consumer Reports Blogs

Previous Post | Next Post

February 8, 2011

More

Claim check: Can the Lint Alert prevent dryer fires?

Lint-filled dryer ducts cause about 4,500 home fires per year and manufacturers have been trying to solve the problem with built-in features that detect blockages. But when we tested the lint-detector indicators the results were too inconsistent to count on. [Lint Alert](#), a \$40 add-on, claims it can do better.



A pressure sensor that you install in clean dryer ductwork, [Lint Alert](#) promises to "monitor and detect lint buildup in your dryer duct." When it senses poor airflow, an alarm sounds. So, did it work? It did and it could be worth buying for extra safety. But because of the potentially catastrophic effects of a dryer fire, you should still clean the dryer duct periodically.

In fact, you should always keep your laundry equipment clean especially in the winter months when laundry room fires peak. About one-third of the nearly 18,000 fires that start in laundry rooms each year are due to the failure to clean one of the appliances, according to the [National Fire Prevention Agency](#). Here's some advice from the experts at [the NFPA](#), [Consumer Reports](#) and [RepairClinic.com](#).

- Make sure any exposed wires and power cords are secure and free of dust and grime.
- Laundry-room outlets should have ground-fault circuit interrupters and the machines should be securely connected.
- Gas dryers are responsible for more fires than electric ones; have the gas line and connection periodically inspected by a professional.
- Check the washer's hoses for cracks or leaks; corroded hose fittings mean the hose is leaking.
- Remove grit from the screens where the washer hoses attach to the water supply.
- Make sure the washer and dryer are level and resting on a well-supported subfloor to prevent vibration and banging.

From the labs: Check our new Ratings of [washers](#) and [dryers](#).

For complete Ratings and recommendations on appliances, cars & trucks, electronic gear, and much more, [subscribe today](#) and have access to all of [ConsumerReports.org](#).

TAGS: [Appliances](#) | [Dryers](#) | [All Home & Garden Blog Categories](#)

Comments

Verify your Comment

Previewing your Comment

Posted by: |

This is only a preview. Your comment has not yet been posted.

Post | Edit | Refresh

Your comment could not be posted. Error type: Your comment has been saved. Comments are moderated and will not appear until approved by the author. [Post another comment](#)

The letters and numbers you entered did not match the image. Please try again.

As a final step before posting your comment, enter the letters and numbers you see in the image below. This prevents automated programs from posting comments.

Cash for Clunkers
for Appliances

Get *top-rated* energy-efficient appliances

Subscribe to [ConsumerReports.org](#)

Expert Ratings

Previous | Next

Washing Machines

Vacuum Cleaners

Nobody Tests Like We Do



Our testers put 100s of products through their paces at our National Testing and Research Center. Learn more about how we test for:

Performance | Safety | Reliability

[Watch video](#)

Recent Posts

- [Reclaim your space—the final frontier](#)
- [A pricey blender container gets even more so for Vita-Mix](#)
- [Hoover recalls 142,000 WindTunnel canisters that can short circuit](#)
- [GE gets RAD by joining federal appliance disposal program](#)

[More Home Posts](#)

Home & Garden Blog Categories

- [Appliances](#)
- [Consumer News](#)
- [Green/Environmental Issues](#)
- [Heating & Cooling](#)
- [Home Improvement](#)
- [Kitchen](#)
- [Laundry & Cleaning](#)
- [Yard & Garden](#)
- [All Home & Garden Blog Categories](#)

Having trouble reading this image? [View an alternate.](#)



Continue

Post a Comment

All comments are reviewed by our moderators, and will not appear on this blog unless they have been approved. Comments that do not relate directly to the blog entry's contents, are commercial in nature, contain objectionable or inappropriate material, or otherwise violate our [User Agreement](#) or [Privacy Policy](#), will not be approved. Approved posts generally appear within 24 hours of receipt. For general inquiries not related to this blog, please contact [Customer Service](#).

If you have a TypeKey or TypePad account, please [Sign In](#)

Name:

Email Address: (Not displayed with comment.)

Remember personal info?

Comments:

Post Preview