NFPA Clothes Dryer and Washing Machine Fact Sheet



Useful statistics about home fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines.

Clothes Dryers and Washing Machines Fact Sheet

In 2010, an estimated 16,800 reported U.S. home* structure fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines (including combination washer/dryers) resulted in an estimated:

- 51 civilian deaths
- 380 civilian injuries
- $236 million in direct property damage

Leading Items First Ignited in Non-Confined Fires Involving Clothes Washer or Clothes Dryer, 2006-2010

Dryer	Fires	Washer	Fires
Dust, fiber, or lint	29%	Wire or cable insulation	26%
Clothing	28%	Appliance housing or casing	21%
Unclassified soft goods or clothing	9%	Drive belt	15%

In 2006-2010:

- Most (81%) home structure fires involving washers or dryers began in a laundry room or area.
- Most of these home fires involve clothes dryers (92%).
- The risk of fire is roughly equal for gas-fueled clothes dryers and electric-powered clothes dryers.
- The leading cause (32%) of home clothes dryer and washer fires was failure to clean.

*Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.

Estimates are derived from the U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Version 5.0 and NFPA's annual fire department experience survey.

Home Fires Involving Clothes Dryers or Washing Machines