

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

Clothes Dryer Lint: Fire Hazard

A clothes dryer doesn't look scary or appear to be too dangerous. Unfortunately, it is the cause of over 20,000 house fires every year totaling millions of dollars in damage. Regular cleaning and maintenance can protect your family and your investment in your home.



Whether you use an [electric or gas clothes dryer](#), you will have lint. Lint builds up in the lint trap but also inside the dryer hose and vent and can reduce air flow and drying efficiency. Lint can cause humidity levels to rise around vents causing mildew and mold to develop in walls and insulation. But most important to remember: Lint is combustible. Lint causes fires. Fortunately, removing dangerous lint is simple. The first area to clean is the lint trap. It should be cleaned after every load by removing the lint from the screen and wiping the edges. If the screen seems clogged, it may be from the dryer sheets you have been using. Submerge the lint screen in a sink of hot water and then scrub with a bristle brush to remove all the built-up fabric softener.

The key to success in de-linting a dryer is a dryer lint brush. This long-handled flexible brush will help you reach areas that you cannot get to by hand. Remove the dryer lint filter. In the opening - whether

on the top of the dryer or inside the door, use the brush to gently loosen the built-up lint. Don't force the brush if you meet resistance but be sure to cover every surface as much as possible. Remove the big chunks of lint that come out with the brush. Don't worry about the smaller pieces. Replace the lint filter. Turn the dryer to air only and run for a cycle. This will pull the lint into the filter or blow the loose particles out the outside vent.

At least once per year, unplug the dryer and check where the exhaust vent connects to the dryer. The hose or pipe is held in place by a clip or a steel clamp that can be loosened by pliers or a screwdriver. After removing the pipe, reach inside the dryer opening or use a vent brush to remove as much lint as possible. A shop vacuum is handy for removing the most lint and use a damp cloth to wipe away remaining lint around the connection. Then look inside the hose or pipe and clean it as well.

One last step is to clean the exterior vent. Again remove as much lint as possible using your hand or a shop vacuum. You may need a screwdriver or another tool to hold the vent flap open for easier cleaning. If you live in a high humidity area or use your dryer more than twice weekly, you may need to clean this vent several times per year.

Taken from www.thespruce.com by [Mary Marlowe Leverette](#)

In This Issue

1	Dryer Lint: Fire Hazard
1	Notable News
1	Calendar of Events
2	Programs
2	Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips
2	Resources
2	Housing Funnies

Notable News

Did you know there are several trash providers in the city? Each provider offers weekly trash pick-up. Additional services may include recycling and bulk trash pick up. For more information on their services call or visit their website.

Republic Services:
602-237-2078
<https://www.republicservices.com>

Right Away Disposal (RAD):
480-983-9100
<http://rightawaydisposal.com/>

Waste Management:
800-796-9696
<http://www.wm.com/index.jsp>

Calendar

Our offices are closed on the following upcoming days:

- September 4th Labor Day

Programs

Housing Rehab Assistance

The City of Apache Junction has funding available for homeowners within the City of Apache Junction city limits. Funding is available to make improvements to owner occupied homes where one of the occupants is either elderly, under the age of 18, or disabled. Improvements can include, but is not limited to, electrical, plumbing, roofing, heating and air conditioning, and ADA accessibility improvements. Homeowners may obtain an application either:

- 1) online at www.ajcity.net/rehab;
- 2) by phone at (480) 474-2635; or
- 3) by picking one up at City Hall 300 East Superstition Blvd in

the Development Services Building

Funding is available on a first come first serve basis, so applicants are advised not to wait. For more information call (480) 474-2635.

Did you say FREE?

The city is offering Apache Junction residents free reflective house numbers with help from the Friends of Apache Junction and the Allstate Foundation. This offer is on a first come first serve basis, so call today 480-474-2635.

Free Dump Week is provided one week every quarter, Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information and the specific dates, please contact the Apache Junction Landfill at (480) 982-7003.

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

More you should know about your dryer...

1. If you still have a white or silver vinyl duct hose, **it should be replaced immediately**. Ideally, you should use rigid aluminum tubing between the dryer and the outside vent. Flexible aluminum ducting is available, however, it is more prone to collecting lint inside.
2. A clothes dryer should not vent inside your home or attic. The maximum length of a clothes dryer exhaust duct should not exceed 25 feet from the dryer location to the wall or roof termination. The ducts should be as straight as possible.
3. Be certain that you have a 220v grounded electrical outlet available for an electric dryer. A professional should always be hired to install gas lines for gas dryers.
4. Never store volatile chemicals or rags near a dryer. Some liquids emit vapors than ignite. The area around the dryer should be kept free of lint, papers, and stacks of clothing.

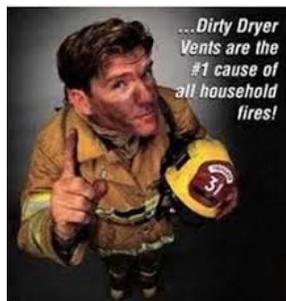
Bees Wishes 

RESOURCES

The Superstition Fire and Medical District has a fabulous community education program and website. Visit <http://sfmd.az.gov/community-safety-education/> for more information about child passenger safety, CPR & first aid, emergency preparedness, older adult safety, water safety and of course fire safety.

HOUSING PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Eliminate health and safety hazards in homes;
2. Benefit low to moderate income residents; and
3. Improve neighborhoods and encourage stability.



Housing...not so...Funnies

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:
City of Apache Junction
Housing Division
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
Apache Junction, Arizona 85119
Phone: (480) 474-2635
Fax: (480) 474-5102
TDD: (480) 983-0095
www.ajcity.net
hpatel@ajcity.net
Monday to Thursday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY The City of Apache Junction invites and welcomes people of all abilities to use our programs, sites and facilities. Any question about our service for people with disabilities can be answered by the city's ADA Coordinator (480) 474-2635, TDD (480) 983-0095, or adacoordinator@ajcity.net. Additional information may be found at www.ajcity.net/ada.