

- Prevent a fire -
Clean out your
dryer vent



Before

After

Proper Dryer Venting Informational Brochure



West Allis Fire Department
7332 W. National Avenue
West Allis, WI 53214
(414) 302-8900
www.westalliswi.gov

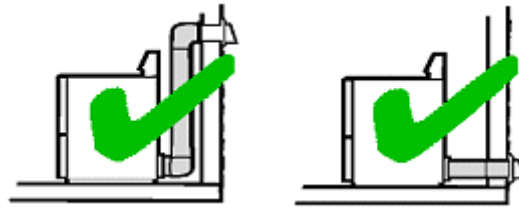
Did you know there
are over 15,000 dryer
related fires a year?

Choose the correct
dryer vent and prevent
this from happening to
you



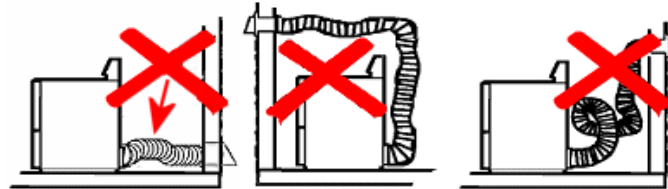


Examples of Good Venting



The vent should be as short and as straight and with as few elbows as possible. The more bends and turns, the greater the reduction in air flow there is and more areas where lint can accumulate. More bends will also hamper vent cleaning which should be performed yearly if not seasonally.

Examples of Poor Venting



All manufacturers now state in their manuals not to use plastic flexible ducts. It is against code to use flexible vinyl or flexible foil venting. They can sag, be easily crushed and have excessive lint build up. This can cause a build up of heat and cause a fire!

Four inch rigid or flexible metal is the correct ventilation duct to vent clothes dryers

Do NOT use flexible plastic or flexible foil



CODE REQUIREMENTS

- Clothes Dryers shall be exhausted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ducts shall not be connected or installed with sheet metal screws or other fasteners that will protrude into the inside of the duct and obstruct the exhaust flow of combustion gases, sending harmful carbon monoxide back into the home.
- Exhaust ducts shall have a smooth interior finish.
- The exhaust duct shall be 4 inches in diameter.
- The male end of the duct shall face the direction of airflow.
- The dryer duct shall be no longer than 25 feet long. It should be 2.5 feet shorter for every 45-degree bend and 5 feet shorter for every 90-degree bend. If the duct is more than 25 feet in length, the system requires a booster fan or a high output dryer.
- The dryer exhaust duct shall convey moisture and any products of combustion to the outside of the building and should be at least three feet from any other opening.
- Refer to the International Mechanical Code section 504 for further detailed information, or contact the West Allis Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention.

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