

One-Stop Data Shop
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Clothes Dryers and Washing Machines Fact Sheet

In 2005, an estimated 14,500 reported U.S. non-confined home* structure fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines (or appliances combining washer and dryer) resulted in an estimated:

- 14 civilian deaths.
- 440 civilian injuries.
- \$207 million in direct property damage.

Leading Items First Ignited in Non-Confined Fires Involving Clothes Washer or Clothes Dryer, 2002-2005

Washer Dryer Fires

Wire or cable insulation 28% Clothing 30% Appliance housing or casing 21% Dust, fiber, or lint 28% Drive or other belt 19% Unclassified soft goods or clothing 10%

- Most (82%) non-confined home structure fires involving washers or dryers began in a laundry room or area.
- Most of these home fires involve clothes dryers (92% in 2002-2005).
- The risk of fire is slightly higher for gas-fueled clothes dryers than for electric-powered clothes dryers.
- The leading cause 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.

Source: Home Fires Involving Clothes Dryers and Washing Machines, John R. Hall, Jr., NFPA Quincy, MA, May 2008

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