

Leave at least 4 inches of space behind the washer to prevent hoses from kinking or chafing and inspect them regularly. If you see any bulges, rust or any other damage, replace them right away.

### Dryer vents and lint build up

It is recommended that you check and clean the dryer venting regularly. Use flexible metal pipe, not the foil or vinyl accordion type hoses, they are more likely to catch lint and have an increased risk of fire.



### Smoke detectors

Fires associated with dryers cause more than \$80 million of damage a year. Be sure that dryers are properly vented outside and not leaking inside the attic or crawlspace as this moisture is a conducive condition for structural pests. If there is significant lint buildup inside, your dryer vent is likely leaking.

### GFCIs

When properly installed, GFCIs prevent two thirds of all serious electric shocks a year. All outlets with in 6 feet of water, (laundry, kitchens and bathrooms) in garages or outside should have GFCIs. They are cheap and easy to install and might save your life.



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## TIP SHEET

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# LAUNDRY SAFETY

Every year Washers and Dryers are responsible for 20 deaths, 370 injuries, over 15,600 fires \$230,000,000 in property damage



There are simple steps you can take to help prevent these fires, floods and accidents

See more tips and videos

[www.HipsPro.com/library](http://www.HipsPro.com/library)

Safety - Maintenance - Repair

\*Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission

We use laundry equipment everyday with out a lot of thought to the potential hazards they may pose.

### Power Cords

Dryers use a lot of power, and usually do not come with their power cords installed when you buy them. When hooking up a power cord, follow the manufacturers instructions, and be sure to have the proper strain relief fitting. Since dryers vibrate and can have sharp edges to the sheet metal enclosures, cords can short out, causing a potential fire or electrocution hazard.

As with all power cords be careful when you use the plugs, but ESPECIALLY with 240 volt connections.



The plugs are large and require a bit of effort to insert, it is easy to accidentally touch the conductors when inserting or removing them.

### Washing Machine Hoses

These hoses are under pressure all the time and can burst causing extensive water damage to the home. Since washers will jiggle when they operate the hoses can rub against the wall behind them. We always recommend the metal braided hoses for washers since they are much more burst resistant.



We found this dryer power cord on an inspection; notice it does not have a proper strain relief connector called for on the warning label.



This is one type of strain relief cable clamp required by the manufacturer's warning label

### Explosion hazards

Both washers and dryers have electric motors and other components that can produce sparks capable of igniting flammable vapors or gasses. Laundry equipment are sometimes in garages where there may be gasoline, paint, solvents, propane natural gas etc. Always store these chemicals in their original, properly labeled air-tight containers. If there is a spill, DO NOT use any electrical appliance or garage door openers until it is cleaned up and all vapors have dissipated



Explosion Hazard  
Keep flammable materials and vapors, such as gasoline, away from dryer.  
Failure to follow these instructions can result in death, explosion or fire.

### Fresh air/back drafting

When dryers run they exhaust a lot of air outside the home. This can produce a negative air pressure condition leading to a possible back-drafting of combustion gasses from furnaces, hot water heaters etc. This problem is especially true in modern energy efficient homes or confined spaces such as a closet. All homes with combustion appliances must have carbon monoxide detectors!



This hot water heater has exhaust rollout. Improper flue design or inadequate air supply can cause combustion gasses to vent into the home. If your heater has these stains please have it checked out.