



Clothes Dryers and Washing Machines Fact Sheet

In 2006, an estimated 17,700 reported U.S. non-confined or confined home* structure fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines (including combination washer/dryers) resulted in an estimated:

- 15 civilian deaths
- 360 civilian injuries
- \$194 million in direct property damage

Leading Items First Ignited in Non-Confined Fires Involving Clothes Washer or Clothes Dryer, 2003-2006

Dryer	Fires	Washer	Fires
Clothing	30%	Wire or cable insulation	29%
Dust, fiber, or lint	27%	Appliance housing or casing	21%
Unclassified soft goods or clothing	10%	Drive or other belt	18%

- Most (81%) 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 2003-2006).
- The risk of fire is slightly higher for gas-fueled clothes dryers than for electric-powered clothes dryers.
- The leading cause (29% of fires) 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.