

California Baptist university, 8432 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504

## Laundry Room Maintenance Guidelines

Dryers and washing machines account for 1 out of 22 home structure (dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, and condominiums) fires. Clothes dryers account for 92% of these fires<sup>1</sup> and a majority of these fires may have been prevented with proper housekeeping. Clothing, dust, fiber, and/or lint account for a combined 57% of all dryer fires<sup>2</sup>.

### Residential Laundry Rooms.

The area behind residential dryers and washing machines must be cleaned after each spring semester (late April/early May), fall semester (December), and prior to fall semester after the last summer camp departs (August) at a minimum to ensure the area is free from clothing, dryer sheets, dust, and lint. Attention must be given to pipes, hoses, and vents during cleaning. These areas collect dust and lint and are often overlooked or missed completely. Additionally, clothes dryers and washers must be periodically inspected between cleanings to ensure clothing, dryer sheets, dust, and lint build up to a minimum.

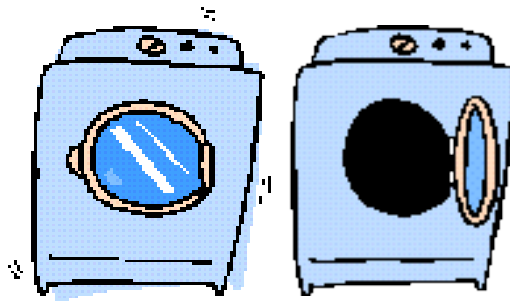


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Photograph 1 – Apartment Dryer Fire<sup>3</sup>

### Department Laundry Rooms.

Non-residential dryers and washing machines may require more frequent cleanings. It is the department's responsibility to ensure the area behind the dryers and washing machines is inspected on a frequent basis to ensure the area is free from clothing, dryer sheets, dust, and lint. At minimum the area must be cleaned four (4) times a year and more frequent cleanings may be required in laundry rooms that have a high work load.



### Additional Information.

NFPA Clothes Dryer Safety Tips click [HERE](#).

NFPA Clothes Dryers and Washing Machines Fact Sheet click [HERE](#).

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/causes/dryers-and-washing-machines>

<sup>2</sup> National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), Fire Analysis & Research Division (2012)

<sup>3</sup> Cayuga Heights Fire Department; <http://www.chfd.net/> - 7/16/12: Dryer Fire at Cornell's Hasbrouck Apts.