The leading cause of home clothes dryer and washer fires is failure to clean them.

SAFETY TIPS

• Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.

• Do not operate the dryer without a lint filter. Clean the lint filter before or after each use. Remove accumulated lint around the drum.

• Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.

• Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.

• Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.

• Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.

• Avoid overloading a washing machine or dryer. Follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions.

• Do not leave a dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed.

• Washing machines and dryers should be properly grounded.

• Make sure sure the outdoor vent flap is not covered by snow.

• Never dry items that have come in contact with flammable substances, such as cooking oil, gasoline, paint thinner, alcohol.

• Keep the dryer area clear of things that can burn, such as boxes or clothing.