

# DIY: Clean a Dryer Vent



**DIFFICULTY:** BEGINNER

**COST:** \$0–15

**TIME:** 30 minutes

**FREQUENCY:**

1–2 times per year

**BENEFITS:**

- Saves you money by decreasing the time it takes for clothes to dry
- Reduces dryer wear and tear
- Protects you from fires and with gas dryer, it also protects you from combustion gases, such as carbon monoxide.

**MATERIALS:**

- dryer vent brush (extendable or flexible)
- vacuum or shop vacuum
- screwdriver
- utility knife
- [caulk](#)

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT:**

Face mask

**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:** Allowing excess lint to build up in your dryer vent can restrict air flow, putting your home at risk for dryer exhaust fires and it keeps pollutants, such as carbon monoxide from exhausting properly from your home.

**BEFORE YOU START:** Unplug your dryer and shut off the gas if you have a gas dryer.

1. Pull your dryer away from the wall so the vent is accessible. Use a screwdriver to loosen the clamp and remove the vent from the wall.
2. Use a vacuum or your hands to remove as much lint as possible from the wall vent as well as the vent that goes from the dryer to the wall. Most lint will build up at the ends of the vent. If there is a large build up of lint in the dryer-to-wall vent it can be removed completely and either taken outside and cleaned with a dryer vent brush or replaced. A dryer vent brush shouldn't be used inside, as it will bring large amounts of dust and lint into the house.
3. Reattach the dryer-to-wall vent, retighten the clamp, and slide the dryer back into place.
4. Locate the outside end of your dryer vent and remove the cover by sliding it straight out. The cover may be secured with [caulk](#) or screws. If it is secured with caulk use a utility knife to cut it away.
5. Lint near the end of the vent can be removed with a vacuum or your hands. Use a dryer vent brush to remove lint located further in the vent.
6. After you have removed a majority of the lint, plug in the dryer, and turn on the gas (for gas dryers) but do not put the cover back yet.
7. Run the dryer on the air fluff setting for 10–15 minutes. This cycles air without drying and will help remove any leftover lint particles.
8. Put the outside vent cover back and reapply caulk if necessary.
9. In addition to cleaning the exhaust vent regularly, it is essential that you clean the dryer's lint screen after each use. This action helps with fire safety and efficient drying.

**RESOURCES:**

- [www.todayshomeowner.com/video/how-to-clean-a-dryer-vent/](http://www.todayshomeowner.com/video/how-to-clean-a-dryer-vent/)
- [www.prettyhandygirl.com/2011/11/time-to-clean-your-dryer-ducts-prevent-fires.html](http://www.prettyhandygirl.com/2011/11/time-to-clean-your-dryer-ducts-prevent-fires.html)
- [www.wikihow.com/Clean-a-Clothes-Dryer-Vent](http://www.wikihow.com/Clean-a-Clothes-Dryer-Vent)
- [www.cpssc.gov/PageFiles/118931/5022.pdf](http://www.cpssc.gov/PageFiles/118931/5022.pdf)
- [www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/causes/dryers-and-washing-machines/dryer-safety-tips](http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/causes/dryers-and-washing-machines/dryer-safety-tips)
- [www.consumerreports.org/cro/appliances/laundry-and-cleaning/clothes-dryers/truths-and-myths-of-dryer-fires/overview/index.htm](http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/appliances/laundry-and-cleaning/clothes-dryers/truths-and-myths-of-dryer-fires/overview/index.htm)



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