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Don't get burned by a faulty dryer vent

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Recent fires in Livonia and Westland could have been prevented with a call to Clean & Green Dryer Vent Experts.

"The Livonia fire was reported to have caused over \$100,000 in damages and the Westland fire resulted in the loss of a beloved pet," says Tim Reiher. "I believe that this service provides the community with what it needs right now. We are mainly focusing on two causes here, making homes safe and more efficient."

Tim's father Ron retired from Chrysler after 32 years and opened the Redford-based business. The company is a family effort, with wife Christine and sons Tim and Jonathan all doing their parts.

Ron and Tim are both Certified Dryer Exhaust Technicians through the Chimney Safety Institute of America, CSIA. Tim Reiher recently joined the business after four years as a corporate trainer for a national franchise company in the same industry.

So what exactly do they do?

Clean & Green helps prevent dryer fires by keeping the appliances functioning properly. They inspect dryer and clean, modify or replace vents when necessary. The result is a safer, more efficient dryer.

Unfortunately, it is an issue many people don't think about until it is too late. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 15,500 dryer fires occur every year. The leading cause to these fires has been cited as lack of maintenance. These fires can easily be prevented through education.

"That's 42 fires caused by dryers every day," said Tim Reiher.

Vents can easily become clogged with debris, rendering them inefficient and even dangerous, especially vents made of plastic or foil, which are no longer the industry standard.

Proper maintenance extends the life of a dryer and can reduce energy consumption by up to 50 percent, which means less carbon gas floating from your dryer vent into the atmosphere.

WARNING SIGNS

Ron Reiher said the following signs indicate a malfunctioning dryer:

- Clothes are taking more than one cycle to dry
- Lint no longer appears on lint screen.
- Dryer repeatedly stops during a cycle.

- Clothes have moldy smell after dry cycle.
- Check for loose lint behind your dryer.
- If you can't hear or feel air moving from the vent from the exterior you may have a clogged vent.

TAKING ACTION

Here is what to do if you suspect a problem:

- Check your dryer vent code regulations with your city, state and manufacturer.
- Replace plastic and foil vent systems with semi-rigid or solid metal venting.
- Replace exterior vent cover with a louvered cover to prevent animal and debris obstructions.
- Do not put clothes with flammable materials such as oils, cleaning products, or gasoline into the dryer.
- Clean screen lint trays before and after drying a load.
- Wash lint screens with soap and water every few months to remove residue left behind by fabric softeners.
- Remove and clean excess lint from around your dryer.
- Don't leave the house or go to bed with the dryer running.
- Have dryer vents professionally cleaned and inspected annually.

“Following these tips and looking out for the warnings signs can prevent serious risks to your safety and help you to maintain an efficient laundry room,” said Ron Reiher.

For more information, call (734) 377-4175 or visit www.cleanandgreenexperts.com.
