

Slide 1

Don't Get Burned: The Business of Dryer Vent Cleaning





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Slide 2



Presenter



Robert Rizen

Robert Rizen is VP of GC Industrial. He has been involved with air conveyance cleaning since 1989 as well as full-service restoration operations.

**NADCA** - ASCS, CVI, VMT  
Education & Safety, Whitepaper, Fall Tech & Leadership Committees, SME.

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Slide 3



Disclaimer

This presentation is not intended to be a comprehensive program covering all aspects of this topic. All technicians are encouraged to read and follow all applicable standards, codes and regulations related to this topic.

- ✓ It is the responsibility of each individual contractor to follow local building codes and licensing requirements and to work safely in accordance with OSHA guidelines.
- ✓ It is the contractor's responsibility to take proper precautions on each project to prevent cross contamination. Always take the health and safety of the building occupants into consideration before you conduct any cleaning procedures.
- ✓ All of the following tips are only general tips. They do not cover every situation and it is your responsibility to adapt these tips to the individual system you are working on.
- ✓ The Instructor is not responsible in any way for the work you perform after viewing this slide show. You are responsible for your own work.
- ✓ The views and opinions following are the instructors opinions and not necessarily the official position of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association.

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Slide 4



What We'll Learn

- WHY?
- SAFETY
- CLEANING
- DEDP

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Slide 5



Why Cleaning is Needed

- Dirty dryer ducts lead to longer dry times
- Allowing excessive heat buildup – shortens component lifespans
- Modern dryers will not work with excessive backpressure

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Slide 6



Why Cleaning is Needed

- Dryer lint is extremely flammable!
- Fabric softeners leave a sticky residue when heated – coating duct interior
- Lint sticks to this residue impacting airflow

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Slide 7



### Why Cleaning is Needed

NFPA – National Fire Protection Association

Approximately 15,600 structure fires, 400 injuries and 15 deaths reported annually as a result of dryer fires

The leading items first ignited in clothes dryer fires were dust, fiber, or lint (27%) and clothing (26%)

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Slide 8



### Why Cleaning is Needed

The leading factor contributing to the ignition of home fires involving clothes dryers was **failure to clean**, accounting for one-third (33%) of dryer fires

The NFPA recommends that dryer vents be cleaned at least once per year to prevent fires and improve dryer efficiency.

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Slide 9



### Safety Considerations

- Safety is **ALWAYS** the Priority
- Electricity!
- Lock out/Tag out
- Sharp sheet metal, screws etc. – cuts
- Confined Space – attic or crawl space locations
- Angry animals living in confined spaces
- Ladder access – roofs, high walls etc.
- Eye protection
- Respiratory protection – dryer vents contain more than lint!

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Slide 10



### Safety Considerations

- Ng5 is considered the minimum respiratory protection
- Half or full-face mask – magenta cartridges
- If you choose to wear a mask – fit tested
- Tyvek suits may be an option
- Cut resistant gloves + sleeves
- HEPA filtered vacuums if exhausting indoors
- All cleaning should be performed under negative air



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Slide 11



### Inspection & Cleaning

#### International Residential Code (IRC):

- The termination point of the exhaust duct must terminate to the outside of the building.
- Ducts must not be joined together with screws or similar fasteners which protrude more than 1/8 of an inch into the inside of the duct.
- The exhaust duct shall be made of rigid metal that has a smooth interior finish and not be less than 0.0157 inches thick (No. 28 gage.)
- The maximum length of the exhaust duct shall not exceed 35 feet from the transition duct connection to the outlet termination point.

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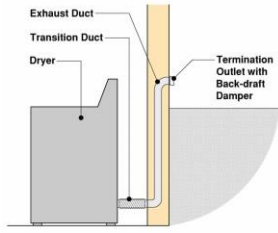
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Slide 12



### Inspection & Cleaning



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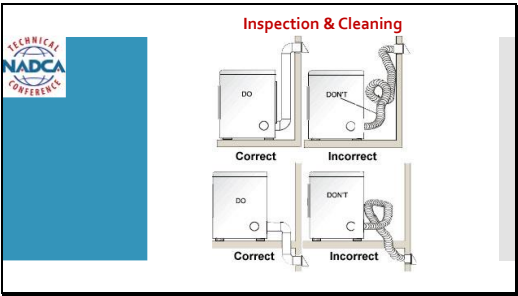
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Slide 13



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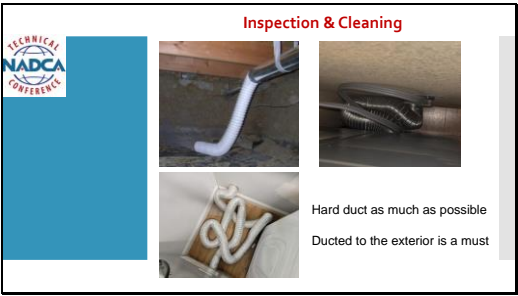
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Slide 14



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Slide 15



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Slide 16



Inspection & Cleaning

What Could Be Inside?





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Slide 17



Inspection & Cleaning

Common Cleaning Problems

- Access
- Equipment in the way
- Excessive moisture
- Excessive buildup
- Improper installation
- Wildlife

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Slide 18



Inspection & Cleaning

Utilize some of the tools you currently have:

- Cannister vacuum (HEPA)
- Hand tools
- Rotary brushes
- Rod and whip systems
- Vacuum collector (HEPA)
- Skilled technician

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Slide 19



### Inspection & Cleaning

**You may want to purchase:**  
Specialized and smaller cleaning devices for dryer vents



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Slide 20



### Inspection & Cleaning

#### Cleaning

- Similar to air duct cleaning
- Obtain suction (negative air) on the dryer duct
- Work from furthest point back towards collector
- Utilize existing access points, disassemble duct if needed
- Do not use 1" plastic plugs
- If more access is needed must be cut and patched with metal
- Flexible duct may not be cleanable



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Slide 21



### Inspection & Cleaning

#### Cleaning



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Slide 22



### Inspection & Cleaning

Cleaning



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Slide 23



### NADCA DEPD

- Developed and published the Standard for measuring residential dryer exhaust duct performance
- Standard is designed to test the performance of newly constructed dryer exhaust duct systems and existing dryer exhaust duct systems that have been visually inspected and confirmed to be clean.
- Determines if the installed dryer exhaust duct moves the minimum amount of airflow



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Slide 24



### NADCA DEPD

**Test Fan Specifications:**  
Booster fan with 113-watt motor and sealed bearing system designed for continuous use; 4" inlet and outlet for ducting, generating 2,910 RPMs, true rated air volume at 190 CFM.





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Slide 25



NADCA DEPD

**Dryer Exhaust  
Duct Performance  
(DEDP)**



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Slide 26



**Don't Get Burned:**  
*The Business of Dryer  
Vent Cleaning*

Conclusion

- Dryer ducts pose a fire risk when not maintained.
- Airflow testing assures professionalism.
- Dryer duct cleaning can be performed with equipment you currently use.

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Slide 27



**Don't Get Burned:**  
*The Business of Dryer  
Vent Cleaning*



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Slide 28



Don't Get Burned:  
*The Business of Dryer  
Vent Cleaning*

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Slide 29

Thank you  
for  
Participating!



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