

Dryer symptom summary

A take-along worksheet for your next conversation with a qualified professional. No signup required. This is not a diagnosis or proof that the dryer is safe.

Safety comes first

Stop using the dryer for a burning smell or signs of overheating. If there is smoke, flame, sparking, or immediate danger, leave and call 911 from a safe place. Do not approach unsafe controls or keep testing the dryer.

Record only what you already know or can see safely. Do not run a test cycle, move the dryer, disturb gas or electrical connections, climb, or open concealed ducting to complete this worksheet.

What have you already noticed?

- ☐ Clothes take longer than usual to dry
- ☐ Dryer or laundry area feels unusually hot
- ☐ Weak airflow or a closed outdoor damper
- ☐ Visible lint near the connector or outdoor outlet
- ☐ Burning smell or signs of overheating
- ☐ No heat, no tumbling, or a persistent error code
- ☐ Visible connector damage or disconnection

First noticed / gradual or sudden change:

Dryer location, stacked units, or access limitations:

Known outlet location: wall / roof / not sure:

Model, error code, or other observations (if already known):

This worksheet does not submit a service request. The Local Lookout LLC is an independent information/referral publisher, not a dryer vent contractor. No provider is currently assigned.

Know what you are approving.

Symptoms can overlap. A qualified professional must evaluate the actual cause, access, and appropriate work. Use the questions below when comparing written quotes.

Which conversation may fit?

Longer drying times, weak airflow, or lint: ask about the complete exhaust path and possible appliance causes. Clean the removable lint screen according to the manufacturer's instructions. Repeated cycles do not clear a blockage.

No heat, no tumbling, or an error code: follow the manufacturer's instructions and ask qualified appliance service. Cleaning alone does not repair every fault.

Damaged or disconnected connector: ask about separately approved vent repair. Do not operate the dryer with disconnected exhaust.

Burning smell or overheating: keep the dryer off and seek qualified service. For smoke, flame, sparking, or immediate danger, leave and call 911 from a safe place.

Ask each provider the same questions

- ☐ Does the quote include the full accessible exhaust route and exterior outlet?
- ☐ Are roof access, stacked units, moving, and reconnection included?
- ☐ How will you check the result and explain any remaining problem?
- ☐ Will repairs and extra charges need my separate approval?
- ☐ Is this cleaning, vent repair, appliance service, or more than one scope?

Quote notes / included work / separate charges:

Sources and sharing

Safety references checked October 15, 2026. These publications inform the general safety notes; they do not endorse this worksheet or diagnose an individual dryer.

CPSC: Overheated Clothes Dryers Can Cause Fires, Publication 5022.
[cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/5022.pdf](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/5022.pdf)

U.S. Fire Administration: Appliance and Electrical Fire Safety.
[usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prevent-fires/appliance-and-electrical/](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prevent-fires/appliance-and-electrical/)



Accessible guide and online worksheet

<https://macombdryervent.com/signs-your-dryer-vent-is-clogged>

Share this unmodified worksheet freely with credit to The Local Lookout LLC. Keep both pages and the safety/source notes together.