

Monthly Duct System & Dryer Maintenance Checklist

1. Dryer Maintenance

- Clean the lint trap after every dryer use.
- Inspect the lint trap slot for trapped debris.
- Vacuum behind and around the dryer to remove lint buildup.
- Check dryer exhaust vent outside for blockages or visible debris.
- Test airflow at the exterior vent; ensure strong airflow.
- Inspect dryer drum for unusual wear or debris accumulation.

2. Dryer Vent System

- Inspect the vent hose for kinks, cracks, or signs of wear.
- Ensure vent hose connections are tight at both ends (dryer and wall).
- Check for signs of clogs in the vent hose using a flashlight.
- Run a dryer vent cleaning brush through the vent hose to remove buildup.
- Look for signs of overheating (e.g., hot to the touch exterior vent).

3. HVAC Duct System

- Inspect vent covers and grilles for visible dirt or debris.
- Dust or vacuum vent covers and surrounding areas.
- Check airflow from vents in each room; note any weak or uneven airflow.
- Inspect ductwork connections in the attic, basement, or crawl space for leaks or damage.
- Check for mold or mildew around duct joints or inside vents.
- Listen for unusual noises from the HVAC system during operation.

4. General Safety Tips

- Keep dryer area clear of flammable materials (e.g., clothing, cleaning supplies).
- Ensure no obstructions near exterior vents for proper ventilation.
- Replace or clean HVAC filters every 1-3 months (depending on usage).
- Inspect smoke and carbon monoxide detectors near the laundry room; test monthly.

5. Professional Inspection (Quarterly/Annually)

- Schedule a professional duct inspection at least once a year.
- Consider a dryer vent cleaning service if airflow seems reduced.

Top Dryer Safety Tips

- Never leave the house while the dryer is running.
- Avoid overloading the dryer.
- Use aluminum or metal venting materials (not plastic).
- Replace vents that are over 10 years old.
- Monitor drying times; longer-than-usual drying may indicate a clogged vent.