

# Clothes Dryer

Clothes dryers use 3 x \$1.00 coins for 1 hour drying time



**Warning - Overheated clothes dryers can cause fires**

**Always clean the lint filter before use**

## How does a clothes dryer work?

A clothes dryer consists of a tumbler drum, an electric motor to spin the drum, an electric timer, and a source of heat. All dryers must have an exhaust vent that should be ventilated to the outdoors. There is also a lint filter that should be cleaned after every load.

Most modern dryers use a series of heating element coils to heat the air that is passed through the drum. These elements are coils through which electricity is passed as an electric circuit. When current flows through these wires, they heat up and warm the air.

## Why does IHD charge us to use the dryers?

Dryers use a lot of electricity. This is expensive to run, but it also adds to our environmental footprint. In Darwin this is mostly unnecessary. During the dry season clothes dry in 1-2 hours outside. Even during the wet season there are hours of sun for drying. Clothes also dry well on clothes airers inside with the ceiling fan or air conditioner on. To discourage wasteful use of the dryers IHD management added the \$3.00 usage fee. It is meant to deter use and reduce our impact on the environment.

## Why must I clean the lint filter?

The lint filter is the most important part of your dryer. As your clothes tumble in the drum and are heated, they release particles of the fibres that make up the cloth. These small fibres will collect on any surface and clog the airflow. The purpose of the lint filter is to collect these fibres before they have a chance to clog the airflow of the vent system. A clogged vent system will reduce the dryer efficiency, but worse still, lint has been shown to easily burn and cause building fires. Poor maintenance by not keeping the lint filter clean is the main cause of this severe overheating problem.