



Venting Through the Roof

Some contractors, builders, and vent cleaning technicians have been reluctant to vent the dryer's exhaust run through the roof. For some, the more "popular" option is to vent through the side of the house. This document will address any concerns and confirm that venting through the roof is allowable. In some cases, roof top venting is the most efficient and safest solution.

Building Code Allows Upward Venting

Both the 2012 International Residential Code and 2012 International Mechanical Code simply say, "Exhaust ducts shall be terminated on the outside of the building." As long as the exhaust termination has no screen feature and includes a back draft damper, it complies with building codes—regardless of the termination's location.

Appliance Manufacturers Allow Upward Venting

A quick search through appliance manufacturer owner's manuals confirms that roof top venting is acceptable. For example, GE's manual explains, "Other type of terminations, such as roof vents, are acceptable providing they are equivalent to the 4" dampened wall cap. They must contain at least 14 square inches of ventilation area and afford adequate protection against backdrafts."

CDET Approves Upward Dryer Venting

In the most recent Certified Dryer Exhaust Technicians (CDET) training manual, an entire chapter is dedicated toward re-routing a vent system through the roof or side wall. The manual does not recommend one termination location versus another, but it does stress the importance of having a short run with smooth hard pipe and minimal elbow use.

Shorter Runs Translate to Safer Homes

New construction feature laundry rooms in interior locations, sometimes in the middle of the house or even on the second floor. Often, venting to the roof creates the shortest run possible which maximizes airflow efficiency and decreases overall backpressure. By creating shorter runs, homeowners can vent safely and can even benefit from decreased cycle times, lengthening the life of the appliance.

Vent Cleaning is Still Simple

Dryer vent cleaning tools have been fine-tuned for all venting scenarios. Cleaning a dryer vent from the roof is just as feasible as cleaning a vent from the side. Some roof terminations even include removable panels to access the duct work with ease. Brushes, compressors, blowers, and whips can all be used to clean the vent through to the roof.

Hot Air Rises

Today's dryers are more than capable of pushing air to rooftop terminations. Hot air rises and fine lint particles travel with it. When venting to the roof, it's important to include an access point at the base of the vertical run to clean out the vent annually.

Based on the points mentioned above, it becomes clear that roof top venting is not only allowable, but is often the preferred method for safe and efficient dryer venting.