Plastic dryer vent cap eliminates draft problem

(NC)-Homeowners usually don't think about their dryer vent until it presents problems. Have you ever walked down into your laundry room and frozen your feet because of cold air coming in through the dryer?

Or do you have frost and ice freezing to the dryer vent pipe on cold winter days and then melting and dripping over the floor? Well, if those problems plague you, it usually is because of the type of dryer vent that you have.

Most dryer vents have a hood on the outside of the house and inside the hood there is a metal flap that is supposed to close the end of the dryer vent preventing cold air from being drawn into the house through the dryer vent pipe and the dryer.

There are a number of reasons why most of these flaps don't work. First of all, lint or ice could prevent the flap from closing completely. If someone has run into the hood with a lawn mower or the kids have hit it with a hockey tick and bent it out of shape, the back



draft flap likely doesn't close. Insects and birds can deposit debris, again inhibiting the proper function of the back draft flap.

Even if the flap works, the metal pipe and hood will transfer cold inside the house through the concrete wall where frost condensation can form even though you may have insulation around the pipe.

To eliminate that problem, a type of dryer vent cap manufactured especially for cold climates eliminates all of these problems. The dryer vent cup is called Dryer vent closure.

It is manufactured from high impact plastic and consists of a flange and elbow that is mounted on the outside of the house while in place of the metal vent cap. On the top of this elbow is a cap that snugly fits over the end of the elbow. There is a cage then mounted around the top of the cap where the cap floats in when the dryer is on.

The force of the air from the dryer lifts the cap from the end of the elbow and the cap then hovers in a cage. When the dryer is off, the cap settles gently back on to the end of the pipe.

In cold-weather tests last winter, I found that the cap does not freeze on to the end of the pipe and what little frost may form is quickly broken when the dryer comes on.

The tight-fitting cap positively seals out all drafts that can come into your house through the dryer as well as insects.

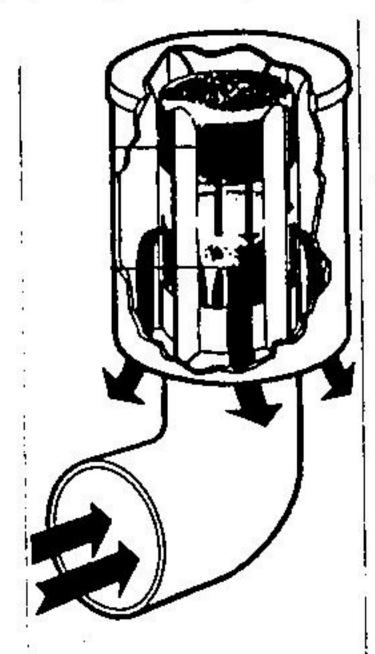
Because the clothes dryer vent is made from plastic it does not conduct cold like the metal pipe does.

Because of the sealing out of the outside cold air, this clothes dryer vent will eventually pay for itself in energy savings. More important is the climination of uncomfortable cold floors and drafts along with condensation in the laundry room.

The unit retails for less than \$20, takes about five minutes to install and comes in an off white color or can be painted to match the trim or wall of the house:

It is available through Canadian Tire stores across Canada.

The unit is distributed by Vent-Lech Enterprises P.O. Box 88, Dugald, Man., ROE 0K0, telephone (204) 475-8245.





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