February 13, 2027 | Knoxville, Farragut & Lenoir City

Arrange annual dryer exhaust cleaning

Main task: about 15 active minutes. Professional preferred; capable DIY for short accessible runs.

February; sooner if drying slows. At least annually.

- [ ] **Review the exhaust route and cleaning date**
  Find the last full-duct cleaning date. Note longer drying times or airflow concerns for the service provider.

- [ ] **Arrange full-route cleaning**
  Have the route cleaned from the dryer connection to the outdoor termination. Use a qualified professional for gas connections, hidden or long ducts, and roof outlets.

- [ ] **Confirm airflow and save the date**
  Have airflow confirmed after reassembly. Record the cleaning date and plan the next annual cleaning, sooner if use or conditions require.

Safety: Disconnect power. Gas connections, roof outlets and hidden/long ducts need a professional. Stop use for overheating or burning odor.

Additional time: Usually 60-90 minutes on site; accessible DIY 45-90 minutes

Timing basis: USFA verifies annual duct cleaning. High use may need more often. Equipment instructions and actual conditions take priority.

Guidance: Source 1

Open the online checklist and how-to links

Follow-up notes

Other maintenance this week

Up to 55 additional active minutes if every item applies. Spread these out. Skip equipment you do not have and monthly checks already completed.

- [ ] **Walk through for leaks and humidity** (Weekly; 10 min)
  Look under sinks and at ceilings. Read a hygrometer. Log new dampness. Aim for 30-50% RH, below 60%.
  Safety: Fix leaks promptly. Dry wet materials within 24-48 hours. Refer extensive, hidden or contaminated damage to a professional. Guide

- [ ] **Read refrigerator and freezer thermometers** (Weekly planning check; 2 min)
  Read appliance thermometers. Refrigerator should be 40 F or below; freezer 0 F or below.
  Safety: Investigate unsafe temperatures promptly. An appliance setting is not a thermometer reading. Guide

- [ ] **Practice home fire escape plan** (Twice yearly planning drill; 20 min)
  Confirm exits work, two ways out where possible and an outdoor meeting point. Practice together.
  Safety: Never use real smoke/fire or take a risky escape route for practice. Guide

- [ ] **Test GFCI protection** (Monthly; 5 min)
  Use TEST and RESET as the device manual directs. Confirm protected power interrupts.
  Safety: Plan around equipment that loses power. Stop using failed protection and call an electrician. Keep hands dry. Guide

- [ ] **Test garage door reversal and sensors** (Monthly; 8 min)
  Follow your opener manual for contact-reversal and photo-eye tests. Keep everyone outside the door path.
  Safety: Never stand under the door. Do not adjust springs, cables or force settings. Stop use if either test fails. Guide

- [ ] **Maintain vacuum cleaner** (Monthly inspection; filter care per model; 10 min)
  Clear hair and visible obstructions. Clean or replace filters according to the vacuum manual.
  Safety: Unplug or remove the battery before access. Wash only washable parts and dry fully before refitting. Guide

Optional housekeeping & reminders

About 178 active minutes for cleaning: 143 for the regular routine plus this week's detail. Spread it out. Laundry and machine cycles add time.

Follow care labels, ventilate and never mix cleaning products. Use safe access and hire help for height or heavy items.

Regular cleaning routine

- [ ] **Wipe down the kitchen**
  Counters, cooled stovetop, sink and appliance fronts.
- [ ] **Vacuum and mop floors**
  Include stairs. Use the method approved for your flooring.
- [ ] **Dust and refresh upholstery**
  Top to bottom. Vacuum cushions and fluff pillows.
- [ ] **Clean bathrooms and reachable glass**
  Toilets, sinks, tub or shower, mirrors and glass.
- [ ] **Review food storage and empty bins**
  Check leftovers. Wipe sticky trash and recycling bins.
- [ ] **Wash bedding, towels and bathmats**
  Replace sheets and pillowcases. Follow care labels.

This week's detail

- [ ] **Launder duvet covers, pads, protectors and shams** (15 min)
  Review duvet covers, pillow protectors, mattress pads and shams and launder when due.
  Safety: Care labels govern. Active time excludes washer/dryer cycles.
- [ ] **Launder throw rugs and runners** (10 min)
  Inspect washable throw rugs and runners. Launder when needed according to the label.
  Safety: Do not machine-wash unsupported backing. Refit only when dry and secure.
- [ ] **Wipe doors, trim and switch plates** (10 min)
  Wipe reachable door surfaces, trim and switch plates with a compatible method.
  Safety: Do not spray liquid into switches, outlets or locks.

Only if it applies: household and equipment

Additional time. Keep personal and financial records private.

- [ ] **Sort magazines and catalogs** (3 min)
  Sort current reading and recycle or file unwanted items.
  Safety: Protect personal information before recycling.

- [ ] **Review bank and card transactions** (10 min)
  Review recent transactions and flag unfamiliar charges or missing records.
  Safety: Use trusted account access. Keep financial details out of shared copies.

- [ ] **Review inboxes, bills and paperwork** (10 min)
  Review due bills and correspondence; file completed paperwork.
  Safety: Protect account numbers and avoid duplicate payments.

- [ ] **Review septic service due dates** (15 min)
  Check last service and system type. Book due inspection/pumping based on the professional assessment.
  Safety: Never enter or open a tank. Keep vehicles off the drainfield. Alternative mechanical systems often need annual service.

- [ ] **Review water-treatment filters and service** (5 min)
  Check the service record for whole-house, under-sink and softener equipment. Perform only due, approved maintenance.
  Safety: Prevent leaks and contamination. Do not assume one replacement interval fits all systems.

- [ ] **Care for portable humidifier** (6 min)
  Empty, dry and refill daily. Clean every third day and rinse thoroughly as directed.
  Safety: Unplug before cleaning. Use only when humidity requires it; follow water and cleaning instructions.

Optional vehicle reminders

A reminder is a due-date check. Use the manual, mileage, condition and service history.

- [ ] **Check vehicle fluid levels** (10 min)
  Check only the owner-serviceable fluid levels using the manual's method.
  Safety: Never open a hot cooling system. EV/high-voltage and unfamiliar systems need a technician.

- [ ] **Inspect wiper blades and washer supply** (5 min)
  Check wiping quality and visible damage. Use the specified washer fluid.
  Safety: Never run blades on dry dirty glass. Replacement depends on condition.

Between reminders: clean the dryer lint screen each load. Inspect after significant storms and address failed alarms, leaks or unsafe equipment promptly. Portable humidifiers in use need daily water care and cleaning every third day. Pools need more frequent care and barrier supervision during use.

Move outdoor work for heat, lightning, rain or ice. Prepare plumbing before a forecast freeze. Repairs, professional service, materials and machine cycles add time.