

Quick Guide: Why Your Dryer Needs a Second Cycle

What to check first, and what to ask before booking a repair

What to Check First

1 Empty the lint filter

A full or residue-coated screen is one of the fastest ways to slow a drying cycle down, so check it before every load.

2 Look at how full the drum is

A drum packed edge to edge limits tumbling and airflow, so items in the middle of the load stay damp longer than the rest.

3 Check the vent hose behind the machine

Kinks, tight bends, or a hose crushed against the wall restrict airflow the same way a blocked lint screen does.

4 Note whether drying time has crept up over months

A gradual slowdown usually points to the vent system, while a sudden change points somewhere else in the machine.

Before You Call a Technician

1 Look at the exhaust hood outside

A flap that will not open freely, or visible lint around the vent opening, is useful to note before anyone inspects it.

2 Track how many loads have needed a second cycle

An occasional repeat is different from every load needing extra time, and that pattern helps narrow down the cause.

3 Try a test load of similar-weight items only

Drying towels alone versus a mixed load can show whether the issue is airflow or the combination being dried together.

Questions to Ask a Technician

1 Is this a vent issue or a heating element issue

Ask them to explain which symptom pointed them to their answer, not just what the fix costs.

2 How was the vent system actually tested

A visual check and an airflow check are different things, and it helps to know which one was done.

3 What should drying time look like once this is fixed

Ask for a general expectation so you have something to compare against going forward.

Match the fix to the actual cause, then confirm it worked over a few normal loads.

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