

# Why Your Dryer Stops Working in Ottawa Winters (And How to Fix It)

*Quick reference guide by Max Appliances Ottawa*

## **First check: exterior vent flap**

Walk to the outside of the house. Find the dryer vent hood. If iced shut, pry open with a screwdriver or pour warm water. Run dryer 30 seconds, watch flap puff open. Brush snow away after every storm.

## **Second check: lint in the vent line**

Pull dryer from wall. Disconnect flex hose. Anything thicker than dust = clean it. \$25 vent brush kit from Canadian Tire fits a cordless drill.

## **Vent length rules (modern dryers)**

Max 7.5m (25 ft) of straight 4 inch rigid metal duct. Subtract 1.5m (5 ft) per 90-degree elbow. Most basement installs with 2 elbows = max 4.5m straight.

## **Replace flex foil duct with rigid metal**

Foil flex hose collapses, traps lint, kills airflow. Smooth rigid 4-inch metal duct is the only correct material between dryer and exterior.

## **Heat pump dryer in cold basement**

Runs at 50C instead of 70C. In a 14C basement, expect 30-50% longer cycles. Normal physics. Heat the room above 18C for faster runs.

## **Cycle never finishes (clothes still damp)**

Almost always vent blockage. Humidity sensor never reads dry. Clean vent first, test heating element second.

## **Dryer trips breaker mid-cycle**

Heating element, motor, or worn cord. NEVER reset more than once. Unplug and call a tech.

## **Most common failed parts (in order)**

1) Thermal fuse \$15. 2) Heating element \$80-150. 3) High-limit thermostat \$25-40. 4) Motor \$200+. Over 10 yr old + bad element/motor = replace.

## **Vent cleaning frequency Ottawa**

1x per year minimum, 2x if 4+ loads/week or pets. Schedule the deep clean in October.

## **When to replace**

Failed motor or element on a dryer past 10 years. Quality used dryers in Ottawa start at \$250 with warranty.

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