

## APPLIANCE DOCTOR

# An elbow and advice help hook up dryer



JOE GAGNON

Every week of the year I speak with someone in person or by phone who just had a clothes dryer delivered to their home and they can't hook up the gas line. The copper tubing that hooks up to the back of the dryer won't fit onto the pipe sticking out the back.

They are very frustrated and not at all happy with the store they purchased the dryer from. With the purchase of a \$3 elbow and a little advice they go home and solve the problem. Let me explain this a little further so that it doesn't happen to you.

Some stores will not hook up your new gas dryer when they deliver it for insurance reasons. There is a higher insurance rate charged a business if they do hook up products and a lower rate for those who don't. When the delivery guys bring the product into the laundry room they will usually take the old dryer away with them. On the back of the old dryer is the gas elbow onto which the copper tubing fits. Make sure that they remove this elbow and give it to you or put it onto the new dryer. Now you can hook up the gas line and please make sure the fitting is tight.

Many of us today own a gas dryer and fail to realize just how serious this product is in our home. We don't worry about its operation until it fails to dry or makes a sound like a cement truck. We turn it on and leave the house or go to bed and never think twice about what could happen. We don't have a smoke detector located directly above the dryer and that has already proven to be a life saver in several cases around us. I say cases because I have been hired many times to represent consumers who have had a house fire due to a clothes dryer. The clothes dryer in the American home is the most likely product that could catch fire. In reality, it is a little furnace which we pay too little attention to.

Many times on my radio shows I have told consumers that if your gas dryer is running but it doesn't produce heat there is a cheap way out. Visit a repair

center and have them show you how to remove the gas valve assembly. This is not difficult to do as long as you get some how-to advice and many repair centers will check out and repair your valve. This sounds simple enough doesn't it, except that once in a while some guy who thinks he's a pretty smart cookie will decide to take it apart. Many times I have put back together a gas valve, that, had the consumer put it into the dryer would have blown the house off the face of the earth. That's called too much gas.

Just a few days ago I visited a home in Livonia where many members of the Western Wayne County Realtors Association had spent a whole day renovating a young woman's home. I was so impressed with the good that these very busy people were doing. So much had been done except for one little important thing. On the back of the clothes dryer there is a plastic vent line. To this fine group of individuals I would like to say, "I'm changing the vent line so that I feel a part of what you guys and gals have done for this young lady, but also because I'll feel better knowing her house is safer."

Winter is about to fall on us in the State of Michigan and it can be such a beautiful season for most of us. It is also a time when we close up the houses and try to keep the cold out. House fires increase in numbers and severity and adults and little children die. Christmas is not a joyous time for those whose Christmas tree ignites because of cheap lights or overloaded circuits. Winter is a time for people to use extra caution when a product in a home can cause distraction. I am asking all of you to please be cognizant of your clothes dryer whether it be gas or electric. There are over 13,000 house fires a year caused by the clothes dryer. Let's not have it happen to you.

Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, will answer your questions about maintaining and repairing large appliances. Gagnon is president of Carmack Appliances in Garden City and does a weekly radio program on WJR-AM. He is author of "First Aid from the Appliance Doctor," available at area bookstores.

## Here's how to cook up a new kitchen

A series of three kitchen remodeling workshops will be offered through the Troy, Birmingham and Huntington Woods adult education programs.

Management Specialties will host the third in the series, "Appliances: How They Can Solve Problems and What They Offer You," Thursday, Nov. 2, or Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 2800 W. 11 Mile, Berkley. The first workshop is Tuesday, Oct. 10,

through the Troy Adult Education Program, Thursday, Oct. 12, through Birmingham Adult Education and Thursday, Oct. 19, Huntington Woods Adult Education Program.

To sign up for this series, call the following school districts: Troy at (810) 879-7599, Birmingham at (810) 203-3800 or Huntington Woods at (810) 541-3030. There is a nominal charge.

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Sale Ends October 14, 1995

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-9:00; Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30; Open Sun. 1-5

# CLASSIC INTERIORS

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