



appliance doctor

Defective motor causes dryer fires



JOE GAGNON

A year ago an attorney called me and asked if I could be retained as an expert witness in regards to a clothes dryer catching fire in a consumer's home. This law firm was representing a customer who had lost their home due to fire, and the insurance company was not going to pay them a cent because they think there was arson involved.

This is not the first case I've been asked to get involved with due to these suspicious circumstances, and I'm sure it won't be the last. In this particular case, I inspected the burned out hulk of this dryer which is in storage until the case comes to trial. It is apparent that the clothes within the drum ignited for whatever reason I can't be sure. It is the contention of the insurance company, the manufacturer's service representa-

tive and the engineer hired by the company, that the clothes within the dryer caught fire because of they may have had a solvent which ignited one of the items.

You see, folks, they, as well as I, don't know for sure what caused the fire, but they certainly aren't going to blame it on their product. They are going to blame it on the dumb unsuspecting consumer who doesn't have a clue on why they had a fire in their clothes dryer. All they know is that they are innocent, are being blamed and getting an insurance payoff seems like almost impossible. There are more than 14,000 house fires a year reported in this country due to the clothes dryer in the laundry room. I wonder how many homeowners are given a rough ride by the insurance industry like I describe above.

Let me give you some facts about this particular make of dryer that I have viewed and investigated. Just a few years ago the U.S. Product Safety Commission came over to my store with

camera in hand and took down a report I made out in reference to a certain make of dryer catching fire. At the time I told them that I knew of at least a dozen owners of this certain dryer who had seen their dryers catch fire and were able to extinguish the flame. Something was seriously wrong with this product and should be looked into. Up to this time, although many more have been reported to me, the U.S.P.S.C. in Washington is still taking its sweet time investigating the reason why.

I know why, it's as simple as black and white, people still report dryers of this make catching fire, and I can't say one word in public to warn the innocent home owner. Next month, I will testify in front of the manufacturer's attorneys so they can decide if I know enough to hurt them in court. If so, they will just settle out of court just like they have in the past when I get involved as an expert witness.

I will make the same statement in court that I have made several times in

regards to this certain dryer. "The clothes are igniting inside the dryer drum because the drum fails to turn and at the same time the gas valve assembly is ignited. With the flame hitting the bottom of the drum, anything will ignite without a doubt."

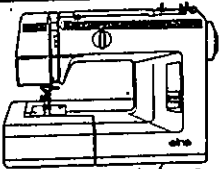
I believe there are more than a half million of these dryers in the American home today, and I believe my facts to be very true, but proving it is another story.

Now comes the flash story. Last week I received a copy of a memo sent only to employees within this company. It was written seven years ago and states that the motor switch can fail on certain dryers and cause the gas valve to operate while the dryer drum does not turn.

Was I right or was I right? Question - Is there an attorney out there who wants to help millions of consumers?

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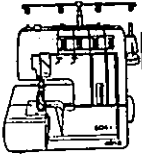


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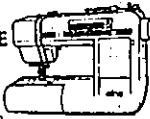
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