

# PACK 309

Wyckoff, NJ



## Dryer Lint Uses

### Dryer Lint Starts Fires

#### **First, be careful, because dryer lint starts fires**

Dryer lint is highly flammable, which is why your dryer should always be vented to the outside, and you should remove lint from the lint trap regularly. Stick up a post-it note, if need be, to remind busy teens to take this step. Decorate it with red hot flames to remind them they risk a house fire if they forget!

- Provide a coffee can, or other small container, for easy collection of dryer lint, preferably after every dryer use.

#### **Second, start fires with dryer lint**

- Pack toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls with dryer lint and use with kindling to easily start a fire in your woodstove or fireplace.

- Pack empty pill containers or film canisters with dryer lint. You'll be surprised how much lint you can stuff in these (several dryer loads worth). Give them to the campers in your family to help start their next campfire.

- Pack cardboard egg cartons with dryer lint and drizzle with melted wax from broken crayons or old candles. Cut the sections apart and use as kindling for your next camp fire.

- Forget the lighter fluid, and use small amounts of dryer lint to light your next charcoal barbeque.

### Dryer Lint as Art

- Crafters with children who love to sculpt can make dryer lint clay. There are numerous recipes available on the web. The following recipe must be made by an adult, because it involves cooking in a saucepan. However, it is a nice clay to mold in a variety of ways.

#### **Dryer Lint Clay**

Tear 3 cups of lint into small pieces and place in a saucepan. Cover with about 2 cups of water and slowly stir in 1 cup of flour. Add a few drops of vegetable oil and stir constantly, over low heat, until mixture is smooth and binds together. Pour onto sheets of newspaper, parchment or waxed paper to

cool. Allow your creation to dry fully, which can take anywhere from 3 to 7 days, depending on the size. Paint and decorate to finish.

### **Dryer Lint Faux Paper Mache**

Combine 2 cups of water with 3 cups of dryer lint in a large saucepan. Stir in 2/3 cup of flour until well mixed. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until pulp holds together enough to form peaks. Pour onto newspaper, parchment or waxed paper to cool. If not using immediately, store in an airtight container; pulp will keep for about 3 days. Spread mixture over the object that you are using as the paper mache mold - a bowl, box, bottle or balloon, for instance. Allow to air dry, which may take up to a week. Sand rough edges and decorate as desired.

### **Dryer Lint Paper**

- If you're making handmade paper, add dryer lint to your paper pulp. Don't try to make paper purely from dryer lint; it doesn't have enough "body" to hold the paper together - but a handful of dryer lint in a blender full of paper pulp will add texture and interest to the final product.

### **Dryer Lint and Horticulture**

- Line plant pots with dryer lint, then add potting soil and plants. The lint keeps the soil in, but lets the water out.

- Use dryer lint as a kind of indoor mulch to help conserve moisture for your indoor tropical plants. Just spread the dryer lint on the surface of the plant soil; water the plant as usual.

- Conserve moisture in outdoor container plants, or around the base of small specimen plants, by mulching with dryer lint.

### **Give Dryer Lint Away**

There are those who would welcome your cast-off dryer lint. Among them are busy sparrows and robins, looking to line a nest for their expected family of baby birds.

- Fill an onion mesh bag with a mixture of nesting material, including small pieces of dryer lint, small pieces of yarn or string (no bigger than the length of your thumb), hair from your hairbrush or dog hair, feathers or leftover strings of moss from your craft projects. Hang from a tree in the springtime, ready for pickup by your grateful feathered friends.

- Give natural fiber dryer lint to your pets - offer it as a nesting material for your pet finches, guinea pig, hamsters or mice.

- Give dryer lint to the worms! Add natural fiber dryer lint (from cotton or wool fabric, but no synthetics) to your compost heap.

### **Dryer Lint Do-Nots:**

Dryer lint is very flammable. It catches fire very easily and burns very well -- so DO NOT use dryer lint to stuff toys or crafts, puff out appliques, or make pillows. It is soft and fluffy, and compacts well, but dryer lint is not a substance that you want surrounding you in a quilt or on a sofa, nor do you want your children hugging a stuffed animal with one of the world's best fire starters.