

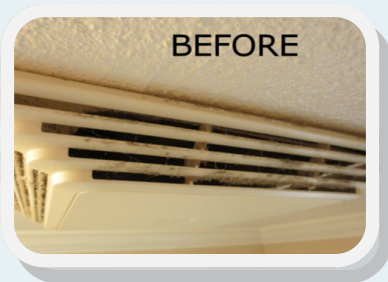
## Take Action!

---

Did you know that the bathroom exhaust fan is a common cause of household fires?

Lint that builds up in your bathroom exhaust fan is a potential fire hazard!

Read more on how to keep your family safe from fires by following some of our safety tips...



## Countryside Fire Protection District

---

**Jeff Steingart**  
Fire Chief

### Station 1

801 S. Midlothian Road  
Mundelein, IL 60060

### Station 2

Headquarters  
600 N. Deerpath Drive  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
Office: (847) 367-5511  
Fax: (847) 367-5521



## Countryside Fire Protection District

## Bathroom Exhaust Fan Fire Hazard

---



600 N. Deerpath Drive  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061-1804  
[www.countrysidefire.com](http://www.countrysidefire.com)

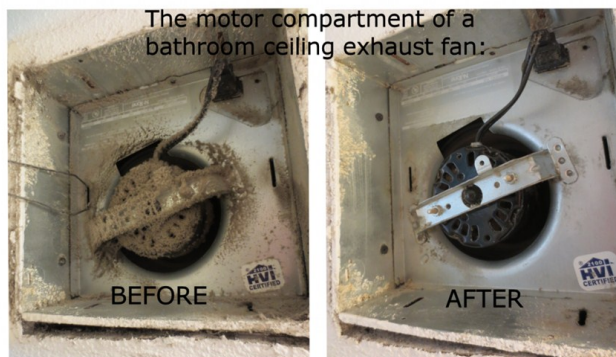
## Bathroom Exhaust Fan Lint is a FIRE HAZARD!

In 2014, bathroom exhaust fans were involved in three residential structure fires within the Countryside Fire Protection District. Fortunately, there were no injuries. However, these exhaust fan fires caused over \$100,000.00 in smoke and property damage in addition to displacing residents for months while repairs and restorations were completed.

Exhaust fans are found in most residences and many commercial properties to help prevent steamed up mirrors, damp walls, and fogged windows along with removing odors. However, they can also present a potential fire hazard if not cleaned and maintained on a regular basis. Over time, fans build up lint which can cause the motor to overheat and ignite the lint, plastic fan blades and the nearby combustible wood structure. The speed at which the lint builds up is a function of the amount of use and the amount of particulate in the air in which it operates.

These fans are not designed to last forever and many are original installs. Older exhaust fans are not thermally protected.

Thermal protection causes the motor to shut off should they seize and overheat. This safety feature has been available since the late 1970's, but was not widely used until the early 1990's. If you have a bathroom exhaust fan in your home, clean it twice a year. If it starts to make noises or smells odd, it's time to replace it.



The following photos demonstrate exhaust fans that need cleaning to prevent overheating and possible unintentional fire in your home.

### ACTION STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PREVENT FIRES

1. Inspect and clean all bathroom exhaust fans as necessary and per the manufacturer's recommendations. Be sure to place on a regular cleaning schedule.
2. When cleaning, remove the fan cover to clean and remove lint from around the motor, paying careful attention to all air-flow areas.



3. Wash the fan cover in warm soapy water to remove all lint. If there is any mold growing, add bleach to the cleaning mixture. Make sure the cover is completely dry before putting it back up.
4. If some fans are not easily accessible for regular cleaning, or appear to have evidence of heat damage, or do not turn freely, they should be replaced with thermally protected units.
5. Please remember that bathroom fans should only be used for brief periods of time, such as during a shower. Many people run them excessively or even forget that they are on. Consider installing a timer switch instead of a manual switch to limit the unnecessary use of the fan. Turn off all fans as soon as they have done the job.

*Yes, this adds some time to your cleaning routine ... but it's worth it to decrease your risk of a fire. So please work it into your routine, keep it clean and be safe!*

For more information and fire safety tips, please visit us at [www.countrysidefire.com](http://www.countrysidefire.com)