

Source: The Columbian (Sunday, February 29, 2004)

The Energy Adviser

The "At Home" section of the Sunday Columbian features a column by our "Energy Adviser."

QUESTION:

Dear Energy Adviser: I read your column on venting clothes dryers last fall. I decided to reroute the vent for my clothes dryer out the sidewall rather than down through the floor and across the crawl space to the opposite side of the house as it is now. My problem is the amount of room the duct takes to make the 90-degree bend to go out the wall. It pushes my dryer into the room by at least a foot. Is there a product that recesses the vent so I can push the dryer flush against the wall again?

ANSWER:

I believe Dryerbox™ is the product you are looking for.

The Dryerbox™ recesses into the wall behind the dryer and accommodates 4-inch dryer duct. This allows you to push the dryer against the wall behind it.

Dryerbox™ comes in 3 1/2-inch and 4 1/2-inch depths to fit into most conventional wall framing. Decreasing the length of the dryer duct run is a good idea. However, unless you don't have framing in the wall behind the dryer and the outside wall, you will still have to either go down into the crawl space or up into the attic to make the 90-degree bend necessary to vent out the sidewall. Since this may add to the length of the duct run, I recommend using smooth-wall metal duct instead of flexible duct. Smooth-wall duct does not resist air flow as much as flexible ducting, enabling the dryer to move more air through the duct, which should reduce drying time. Seal joints in the duct with a paint-on mastic sealant rather than duct tape. Mastic will not break down and leak the way duct tape will. Do not use metal screws to fasten the joints together since this will collect lint and present a fire hazard inside the duct.

The Dryerbox™ costs less than \$20. Unfortunately, it is not available locally. For more information or to order the Dryerbox™, visit www.dryerbox.com.

-- *Bruce Carter*