

Home Fire Sprinkler Myths

Some homeowners are reluctant to install sprinklers because of misconceptions about their operation.

Myth: The water damage from sprinklers is worse than a fire.

Fact: A sprinkler will control a fire with a shower of water. A sprinkler activates during the early stages of a fire before the fire department arrives. Automatic sprinkler systems spray water only in the immediate area of the fire. The fire is kept from spreading, and widespread water damage is avoided.

Myth: Sprinklers go off accidentally, causing unnecessary water damage.

Fact: The odds are 1 in 16 million per year that a sprinkler will accidentally discharge because of a manufacturing defect. One study concluded that sprinkler accidents are generally less likely and less severe than mishaps involving standard home plumbing systems.

Myth: Sprinklers are ugly.

Fact: Modern residential sprinklers are inconspicuous and can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings. Some sprinklers can even be concealed like regular plumbing pipes.



For more information contact:

Howard County Department of
Fire and Rescue Services
Office of the Fire Marshal
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 4th Fl.
Columbia, MD 21046
(410) 313-6040
(410) 313-6066 fax
www.hcdfrs.org
For TTY Service:
Dial 711 - Maryland Relay

For additional information contact these non-profit associations:

American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA)
(214) 349-5965
www.firesprinkler.org

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
(617) 770-3000
www.nfpa.org

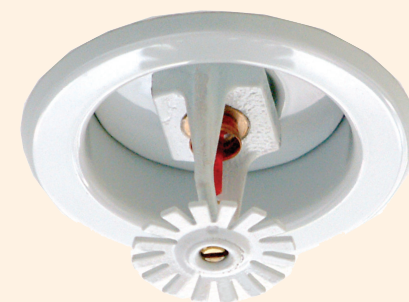
National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc. (NFSA) (845)
878-4200 x 133
www.nfsa.org

Home Fire Sprinklers

Protect what you
value most...

your family
your investments

Home Fire Sprinklers
are a
SMART CHOICE!



Department of Fire and Rescue Services
www.howardcountymd.gov

Home Fire Facts

- Eight out of ten fire deaths in the U.S. occur in the home.
- Every 74 seconds, a home burns.
- Sprinklers and alarms together cut your risk of dying in a home fire by 82%, saving thousands of lives per year.

Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

Fire kills more people in the United States annually than all natural disasters combined. More than 4,500 individuals perish in fires each year. Most fire deaths occur in homes. Home fires often happen at night when people are sleeping. In less than four minutes, a room can become engulfed in flames before anyone awakes. Those most at-risk are the very young and older adults, who may have difficulty making a quick escape. On an average day in this country, four children will die from fire.

Although smoke alarms are essential in every household, they're designed to alarm and detect, not control a fire. Home fire sprinklers complement the smoke alarm's work, providing a way to fight flames immediately. In less time than it would take most fire departments to arrive on the scene, home fire sprinklers can contain and even extinguish a fire. There's less damage and less chance of deadly smoke and gases reaching your family.

Sprinklers: A Safe, Smart Choice

Fire sprinklers are mandatory in most public buildings and people are now demanding the same level of protection for their homes. Home fire sprinklers save lives, reduce property loss, and can even help cut homeowners insurance premiums.

Home fire sprinklers, used in conjunction with smoke alarms, reduce the risk of home fire deaths. They also decrease fire damage by as much as two-thirds in a residence with fire sprinklers when compared to those without sprinklers.

Many communities across the U.S. are seeing impressive results from installing home fire sprinklers in all new construction. For example, in Cobb County, Georgia, there has not been a single fire fatality in homes protected with residential sprinkler systems since the program began in 1980. In Scottsdale, Arizona, the fire loss hit a 10-year low in 1992, despite a nearly 30 percent population growth in the city the previous decade. In dramatic fashion, these communities are proving that home fire sprinklers save lives and property.



Affordable Protection

Recent sprinkler technology make sprinklers more affordable and easier to install in homes. With a variety of unobtrusive designs, sprinklers fit inconspicuously into the interior design. Sprinkler systems usually operate off the domestic water supply.

When building a home you make choices. This option provides you with additional peace of mind. Home fire sprinklers often cost less than new cabinet upgrades, new carpeting, or other major purchases in a new home construction. A good rule of thumb estimate is to add 1 to 1-1/2 percent to the cost of new housing.

Fire sprinklers can also be installed into existing homes. When you consider the degree of built-in reliability and responsiveness that home fire sprinklers offer, the investment is a wise one. To ensure sprinkler system reliability, be sure to use a qualified contractor who adheres to National Fire Protection Association Codes.

Because the fire sprinkler system reacts so quickly it can dramatically reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire. Home fire sprinkler systems release 10 to 26 gallons of water per minute. In a home without sprinklers, a fire department often arrives after the fire has grown to dangerous levels. At that point, a number of hose streams must be applied to the fire at 125 gallons per minute for each hose. Thus water damage is actually much lower with home fire sprinklers. In sprinklered residences, 90% of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler. Sprinklers keep fires small.