

# Residential Sprinkler Systems

---

When properly installed, a residential sprinkler system greatly reduces the chance of fire death. It will also help confine a fire to a smaller area and most likely keep you from experiencing a potentially devastating loss of property

## *FACTS & FIGURES:*

- ✦ Sprinkler systems can be part of a home's new construction or added to an existing home. Decide which system is best for you.
- ✦ 1 out of 10 homes is or will be affected by fire.
- ✦ Fires kill more people in the US every year than all natural disasters combined.
- ✦ Every 85 seconds, a residential fire occurs.
- ✦ 80% of all fire deaths occur in the home—where American's spend over 50% of their day
- ✦ In the US, more than 1 million single-family homes are built every year and less than 1% of them installed residential sprinkler systems.
- ✦ Residential sprinklers detect and will respond automatically to the source of heat. Smoke & smoke alarms do not activate sprinklers.
- ✦ To reduce water damage, each sprinkler head acts independently. Only the sprinkler head(s) closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire.
- ✦ After a fire bursts into flames, an entire room can be consumed within three minutes. Most fires are not reported until 10 minutes after the fire began. Residential sprinkler systems can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it takes for the fire department to arrive.
- ✦ A sprinkler will cause less damage than the water from a fire hose. Fire hoses use more than 15 times the amount of water than sprinklers do to contain a fire (3,200 gallons of water on the average fire). A sprinkler uses 200 gallons of water to control an average fire.
- ✦ The odds of accidentally activating a sprinkler system are 1 in 16 million. (Most malfunctions are due to home plumbing problems). Sprinklers rarely leak. When they are activated, they cause less damage than the fire itself.
- ✦ In the event of a home fire, homeowners can expect financial losses 90% lower than those that occur from fires in unsprinklered homes. Residential sprinklers can put out 90% of fires with one sprinkler head.

## *WORTH THE INVESTMENT?*

While only 2% of all homes have them, residential sprinklers can help ensure your family's safety.

- ✦ An average sprinkler can covers a 12 x 12 room and can be designed to be nearly invisible.
- ✦ The cost of sprinklers is less than new carpeting.
- ✦ A sprinkler system only adds about 1% to the total building cost of new construction.
- ✦ Having a residential sprinkler system increases the value of a home.

- ✦ Most homes with sprinkler systems experience a reduction in insurance premiums. The savings alone helps to pay for it's installation.
- ✦ Most systems are hooked directly to your waterline and require minimal water pressure.
- ✦ Installing a sprinkler system can reduce concern when a fire hydrant and fire department are not easily accessible.
- ✦ Because sprinkler systems fight fires, fire department response time is reduced making more time available for response to other fires and large scale emergencies.

### *IF YOU GET A SYSTEM, MAINTAIN IT!*

- ✦ Contact your installer to find out the proper way to test and maintain your system.
- ✦ Make sure everyone in your family knows where the shut off valve is and how to use it.
- ✦ Have your installer approve any alterations to your system or changes to your plumbing (including water softener or purification devices/filters) before they are completed. They could affect your water pressure.
- ✦ Consider altering your system if you alter or enlarge a room.
- ✦ Never decorate or paint your sprinkler system hardware. It could hinder it's performance.
- ✦ Move bookshelves, ceiling fans, cabinets, or anything else that could obstruct the activation of a sprinkler head.
- ✦ Notify your local fire department if your sprinkler system has been activated (other than when testing the system).
- ✦ In case of fire, follow your home fire escape plan. NEVER deactivate the sprinkler system by yourself. Let the fire department deactivate the system and assess the fire. NEVER assume the fire is out!

