

# RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS

## Everything You Need To Know About Installing Fire Sprinklers In Your New Home



### Why Do I Need Fire Sprinklers In My Home?

Eighty percent of the 3,800 fire deaths recorded annually in the United States occur in homes. Sprinklers provide the ultimate protection from fire for your property and your family. Sprinklers will extinguish a typical residential fire in less than one minute to dramatically improve survival rates.

### Why Are Sprinklers Important For Life Safety?

Sprinklers do not rely upon human factors such as familiarity with escape routes or emergency assistance. They go to work immediately to reduce the danger. Sprinklers prevent the fast developing fires of intense heat (flashover) which are capable of trapping and killing the occupants of a home.

### How Do Sprinklers Operate?

Fire sprinklers are individually heat-activated and connected to a network of plastic (CPVC), copper or steel pipe with water under pressure. When the heat of a fire raises the sprinkler to its operating temperature, usually between 135°-175°F, a fusible link or glass bulb **will activate only that sprinkler over the fire**, thereby releasing water only over the source of heat.



### Won't Sprinklers Look Strange In My House?

No. Due to advances in sprinkler technology, sprinklers look better than ever, if you can see them at all. Sprinklers can be concealed behind ceiling plates out of sight until needed to extinguish a fire. They are available in a wide range of sizes and colors to blend into the background of almost any room.

### Do Fire Departments Support Home Sprinklers?

Absolutely. Firefighters are some of the biggest proponents of home sprinklers. We encourage you to ask your local fire department about the importance of fire sprinklers.

### What About Water Usage?

Sprinklers use only a fraction of the water that fire department hoses do. In case of fire, the water discharged by the fire department is hundreds of times greater than that discharged from sprinklers. During a fire **only** the sprinklers closest to the fire are activated which limits the total amount of water needed to suppress a fire.



### How Effective Are Sprinklers?

Communities with fire codes that require sprinkler systems are enthusiastic about their accomplishments. Prince George's County, Maryland, for example, requires sprinklers in all residential construction. Since the ordinance passed more than a decade ago, the community has never had a fire death in a sprinklered residence.

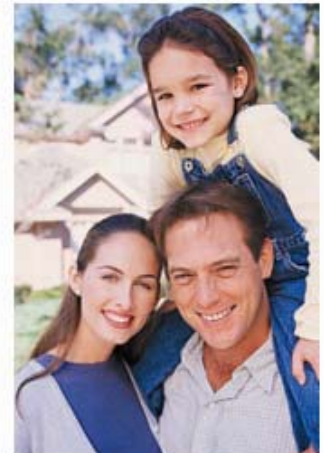
Napa, California, has had similar results. In Scottsdale, Arizona, a 15-year study has shown not a single death in a fire in a sprinklered single-family home, while 13 fire deaths were recorded in non-sprinklered homes over the same period.

### What Is A NFPA 13D System?

Design and installation of home sprinkler systems is standardized nationally by National Fire Protection Association or simply "NFPA 13D." The basic premise of NFPA 13D is that sprinklers should be installed throughout the entire home, including basements. However, exceptions do exist for smaller bathrooms, closets and pantries. And they are not required in non-living areas, such as garages.

### Who Do I Contact For More Information?

Call the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board at 708-403-4468. Or visit [www.firesprinklerassoc.org](http://www.firesprinklerassoc.org). E-mail us at [NIFSAB@NIFSAB.org](mailto:NIFSAB@NIFSAB.org)



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