

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?

About 85% of the 3,010 fire deaths recorded in 2009 in the United States occurred in homes.* Fire sprinklers provide the ultimate protection from fire for your property and your family. Fire sprinklers will extinguish a typical residential fire in less than one minute to dramatically improve survival rates.

Why Are Fire Sprinklers Important For Life Safety?

Fire 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. Fire sprinklers prevent the fast-developing fires of intense heat (flashover) that are capable of trapping and killing the occupants of a home.

How Do Fire Sprinklers Operate?

Fire sprinklers are individually heat-activated and connected to a network of plastic Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride (CPVC), copper or steel pipe containing water under pressure. It takes the heat from a fire, reaching between 135°-175°F, to activate the fusible link or glass bulb in the sprinkler. **Only the fire sprinkler over the fire will activate**, thereby releasing water over the source of the heat.



Won't Fire Sprinklers Look Strange In My House?

No. Due to advances in technology, fire sprinklers look better than ever, if you can even see them at all. Fire sprinklers can be concealed behind ceiling plates and 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.

*NFPA's "Fire Loss in the U.S. 2009" Report (August 2010)

What About Water Usage?

In the case of a fire, fire sprinklers discharge only a fraction of the water that firefighters' hoses do. During a fire, only the fire sprinkler closest to the fire is activated, limiting the total amount of water needed to suppress a fire. One residential fire sprinkler releases only 10–26 gallons of water per minute.



How Effective Are Fire Sprinklers?

Communities with fire codes that require fire sprinkler systems are enthusiastic about their accomplishments. Prince George's County in Maryland has required fire sprinklers in all new homes since 1992 and did not report a single fire death in a fire sprinklered home during its 15-year study ending in 2007. During that time, the average loss to a home that did not have a residential fire sprinkler system installed was \$9,983, if no fatalities were recorded. When a fatality was involved in an unsprinklered home, the loss was much greater, averaging out to \$49,503. The average loss for a home protected by fire sprinklers was only \$4,883. Having fire sprinklers cut the property loss by almost one-half. Hundreds of communities across the country require fire sprinklers in all new homes and are experiencing similar results.

What Is An NFPA 13D System?

The fire sprinkler system is installed according to the national standard NFPA 13D, set by the National Fire Protection Association. It is intended to prevent injury, loss of life and property damage. The system is designed to quickly provide water on a fire in its initial stage of development, which keeps the fire from spreading, preventing flashover and giving residents the necessary time to escape. NFPA 13D requires fire sprinklers only in living areas, not in smaller bathrooms or closets, pantries, garages or carports, attached open-structures, attics and other concealed non-living spaces.

Do Fire Departments Support Home Fire Sprinklers?

Absolutely. Firefighters are some of the biggest proponents of home fire sprinklers. We encourage you to ask your local fire chief about the importance of fire sprinklers. The 15th recommendation of the *16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives* set by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Everyone Goes Home campaign states that "advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers."



SAVE LIVES. PROTECT YOUR HOME. INSTALL FIRE SPRINKLERS.

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