

Myths vs. Reality

about Residential Sprinkler Systems

Myth 1: When fire breaks out, every sprinkler activates.

Reality 1: Heads are individually activated by the heat from the fire. One head usually controls residential fires. Only an uncontrolled fire can generate enough heat to activate more than one sprinkler head.

Myth 2: Water damage from the sprinkler system will be greater than fire damage.

Reality 2: Damage from the low volume of water from sprinklers (10-18 gallons per minute) is significantly less than smoke and fire damage combined with the high volume of water (75-250 gallons per minute) from firefighters' high-pressure hose lines.

Myth 3: Residential Sprinkler Systems are expensive.

Reality 3: The cost of a system for a single-family residence averages about one percent of the home's total cost. That is comparable to an upgrade in carpeting, a decision frequently made in a new home purchase. Yet the sprinkler system lasts the life of the home while carpeting must be replaced periodically.

Myth 4: A smoke alarm is all I need.

Reality 4: Smoke alarms save lives by providing early warning. However, they can do nothing to extinguish fire or protect those physically unable to escape on their own, such as the elderly or small children.

Additional Fire Safety Tips

❖ Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home. Check the batteries monthly. Replace the batteries annually. Replace the entire smoke alarm after 10 years of usage. New alarms now have 10 year Lithium batteries that eliminate the need to change batteries. They also have a hush feature that silences nuisance alarms such as those caused by cooking.

❖ Design an escape plan for your home and practice the plan at least once a year. Draw out your home's floor plan and include all doors and windows. Determine two exits from every room. Designate a meeting place outside the house where everyone can gather after exiting. In case of an actual fire, get everyone out immediately. Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's phone.

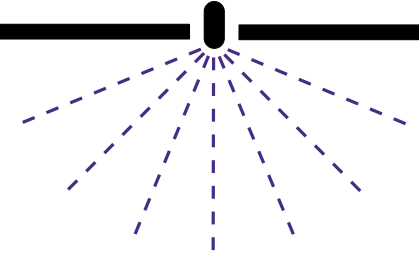
❖ Instruct small children about the dangers of playing with matches, lighters and any type of fire. Reward an understanding of safety regarding fire. Counsel your child about how to call for help in emergencies.

❖ Know how to extinguish small fires on the stove. Simply putting a lid on a skillet of burning grease often will extinguish the fire. Keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it.

For more fire and life safety tips, contact:



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Save Lives with Residential Sprinklers

Low-cost sprinkler systems can save you, your family and your belongings in the event of a fire.

Here is how you can add significant protection to your home.



Residential fire sprinklers are the most effective method of fighting fires in the early stages before they can cause severe personal injury and extensive property damage.

It's almost like having a firefighter in every room of your home.

Safety

People with smoke alarms in their homes have a 50 percent greater chance of surviving a fire through early detection than those in homes without smoke detectors, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you add residential sprinklers to your home your chances of surviving a fire increase to 97 percent.

Additionally, fire damage to your home and contents is significantly less where sprinklers are installed. The American Fire Sprinkler Association reports property losses are 85 percent less in residences with fire sprinklers compared to a similar fire in a residence without fire sprinklers.

Residential sprinkler systems produce added protection for people at highest risk of injury or death in a fire: children, the elderly and handicapped. Sprinklers provide a high level of protection with a minimum of upkeep.



Installation of piping and head manifold during construction



Convenience

Since the Multipurpose Residential Fire Sprinkler System is fed by your domestic water supply there is no need for a separate water meter, backflow valve or annual inspection by outside vendors. As long as you protect your regular plumbing from freezing, the sprinkler system is protected as well. The only requirement is that any plumbing repairs in the future should be done by a contractor with the same experience and qualifications as the installing contractor.

Sprinkler heads come in a variety of decorative colors since they should never be painted. Some models are completely recessed in the ceiling making them far less noticeable than a smoke alarm.

Cost

The cost for Multipurpose Sprinkler Systems in a new home can run from \$0.60 to \$1.00 per square foot in housing developments supplied by a municipal water supply. The cost ratio is currently about one percent of the total cost of your new home – about the same as an upgrade in carpet or cabinets. The cost for retrofitting an existing home will be higher.

Some water departments will waive the increase in System Development Charges (SDC) that are caused by the installation of a Residential Sprinkler System. Other savings can be realized through open discussions with water purveyors, fire departments and plans examiners. Check with your water department and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue for more information.

Some homeowner underwriters offer a five to 15 percent discount on fire insurance premiums when sprinkler systems are installed.

Selecting a Contractor

Check your phone directory under the headings "Plumbers" or "Fire Sprinklers" for contractors experienced with installing multipurpose residential sprinkler systems.

Multipurpose sprinkler systems use the same piping to distribute your home's cold water and feed the sprinkler heads. These systems must comply with the National Fire Protection Association 13D requirements.

Ask for references of recent installations and, if possible, visit those homes. Ask the homeowners if they are satisfied with their sprinkler system. Check for quality in mounting and dressing the sprinkler heads.

More information is available online at the following websites:

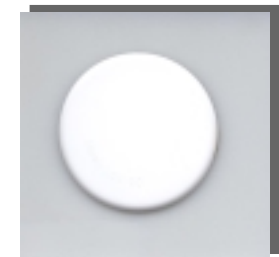
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Finished hidden sprinkler head installation.