



# Home Fire Sprinkler

## COALITION

Protect What You Value Most

[www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)

1-877-550-4372

The **Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition** is a charitable organization and the leading resource for independent, noncommercial information about home fire sprinklers. The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition offers educational material with details about installed home fire sprinklers, how they work, why they provide affordable protection and answers to common myths and misconceptions about their operation.

Visit the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition website at **HomeFireSprinkler.org**.

The **New Hampshire Fire Sprinkler Coalition** is dedicated to promoting home fire sprinklers. This voluntary coalition is a resource for information about home fire sprinklers. The coalition actively works to educate stakeholder groups on home fire sprinklers and collaborates with key state fire service organizations to address and overcome barriers to home fire sprinkler requirements.

For more information or to join the coalition, visit **FireSprinklerInitiative.org/NewHampshire** or **NHFPS.org**.

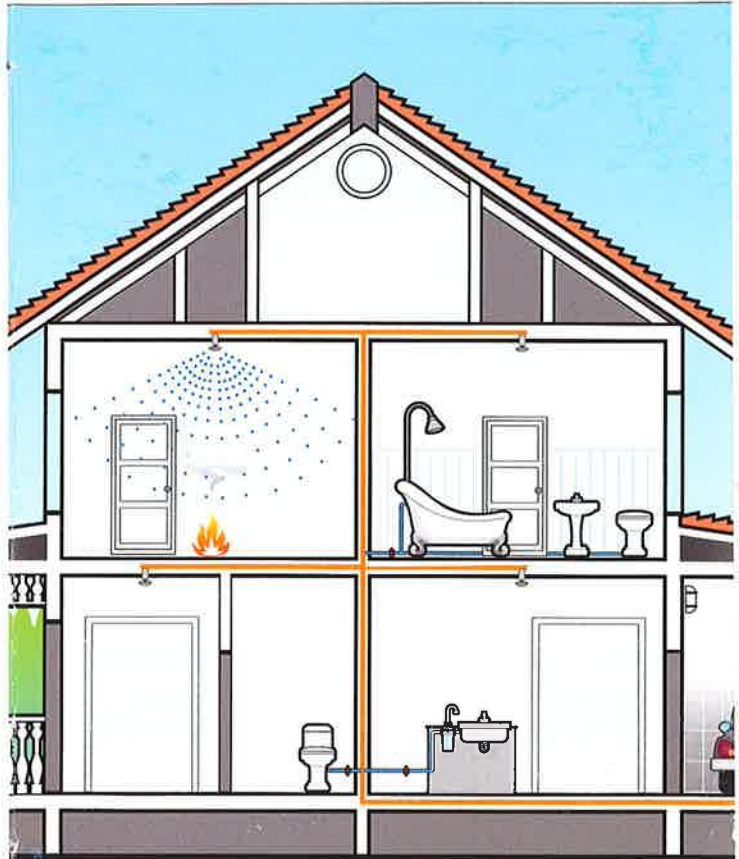
For further information or questions, contact the **New Hampshire Office of the State Fire Marshal** at **603-223-4289**.



FIRE SPRINKLER INITIATIVE  
Bringing Safety Home

# The Benefits of Home Fire Sprinklers

## IN ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY HOMES



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# Are Sprinklers Affordable?

Fire sprinklers add about 1.5% to the cost of a new home. This is about the same cost as an upgrade to the carpeting. But carpets often are replaced every 10 years, while fire sprinklers last for the life of the home. Compared with the cost of carpeting and other decorating expenses, fire sprinklers give you peace of mind for a bargain price.

Costs can vary depending on a number of construction factors. The National Fire Protection Association reports that the average cost to homebuilders, in dollars per sprinklered square foot, has decreased to \$1.35 in 2013. They attribute this downward drive of the cost of home fire sprinklers to increased demand and cheaper materials.



Sidewall Sprinkler



Concealed Sprinkler



Pendent Sprinkler



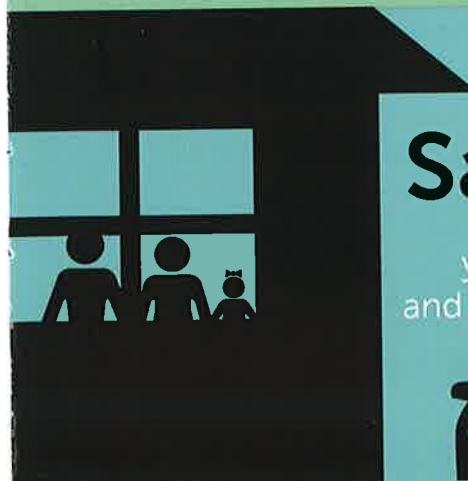
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In a home fire you have less than 3 minutes to escape.



Fire sprinklers can stop a fire in less than 1½ minutes.

1½



**Saving**  
you,  
your family  
and your property.



# Benefits

## INSURANCE PREMIUMS

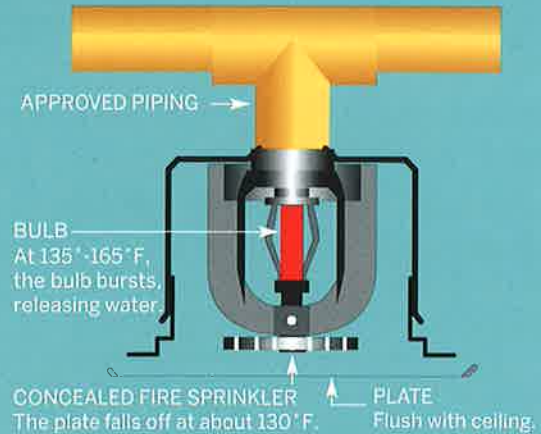
Although a review of the insurance policies associated with several major insurance carriers identified a wide variance in the industry, discounts can range from 5% to 45% depending on the design of the fire sprinklers and the areas to be protected. The higher discounts are more likely available when sprinkler protection is combined with other features like smoke detection, monitoring of the systems, installation of fire extinguishers, and deadbolt locks. Surveys of the local insurance industry indicate the majority of insurance carriers will offer some type of discount, with the average being approximately 10% for approved home fire sprinkler protection.

## LESSER LOSS FROM A FIRE

Many communities across the U.S. are seeing impressive results from installing home fire sprinklers in all new construction. In Scottsdale, Arizona, fire sprinklers have been required in all new homes since 1986. Today, more than half the homes in Scottsdale are protected with sprinklers. A 15-year study of fire loss concluded that the average fire loss per sprinklered incident was \$2,166 compared to more than \$45,000 loss per fire in homes without fire sprinklers.

In Prince George's County, Maryland, fire sprinklers have been required since 1992. A 15-year study of fire loss concluded that the damages averaged \$4,883 per incident in a home protected with sprinklers compared to \$49,503 per incident when there was a fatality in a home without sprinklers.

A sprinkler covers a minimum 12 x 12-foot area. Extended coverage sprinklers can cover a maximum area of 20 x 20 feet.



a cigar or pulling a fire alarm switch. Those actions cannot even make one sprinkler activate, let alone all of them.

The second reason is that a lot of people mistakenly think that smoke will activate a sprinkler. They have seen smoke spread throughout a room, so they conclude that smoke will affect all the sprinklers in the room. Once people understand that only heat can activate a sprinkler, it's easier for them to understand why multiple sprinklers will not activate, even in a smoke-filled room.



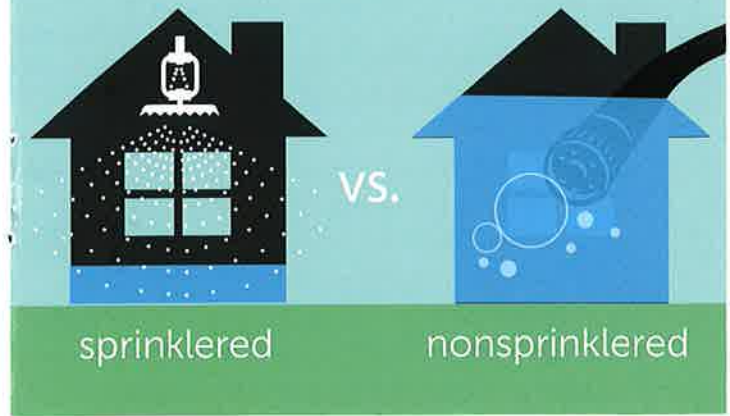
# Deceptive Myths

**"WATER WILL CREATE MORE DAMAGE THAN THE FIRE."**

FALSE! One of the myths about sprinklers is that they will cause water damage. While this may seem logical, fire records show that the reverse is actually true. A home fire sprinkler sprays only 13 to 18 gallons of water per minute and is designed to operate early in a fire to control it. The hoses used by firefighters flow ten times that amount, 250 gallons per minute. If sprinklers are not present, fires typically burn until firefighters arrive. Two things happen to cause more damage than a sprinkler. First, more of your possessions have already been destroyed before the firefighters have intervened, and then you have much more water being discharged at a very high pressure on your remaining property.

It is the combination of the sprinkler's quick response, the lesser water flow, and the lower pressure that significantly reduces property damage. Also, there is less recovery potential,

## Reduced Water Damage



Think about it. A wet sofa can be dried and cleaned as opposed to one that is consumed in a fire. This is even more critical when the possessions that are burned in a fire have sentimental value such as portraits, photographs, heirlooms or antiques. Without sprinklers, the heat and smoke damages furniture, furnishings, and possessions as it spreads unimpeded throughout the house. When sprinkler protection is provided, the nearest sprinkler stops the fire before it can develop into a catastrophic incident.

**\$7.8 Billion in Direct Property Loss From Fire in the U.S.\***

**young children, older adults and people with disabilities are at the greatest risk**

 **9/10**  
structure fire deaths happen at home



## Deceptive Myths

### "SPRINKLERS LEAK."

FALSE! Sprinklers and their piping are pressure-tested to at least the same level as your plumbing system. Like your plumbing pipes, sprinkler pipes are not exposed to cold areas so they are protected from freezing. Additionally, unlike faucets and other fixtures that are operated often throughout their lives, fire sprinklers remain closed until needed and do not receive the wear and tear of daily use.

### "ALL THE SPRINKLERS IN THE ROOM ACTIVATE AT ONCE."

FALSE! Only heat from a fire will activate the sprinkler closest to the fire. Typically, there is not enough heat to activate other sprinklers.

So why, then, do people think that all of the sprinklers in the room activate at the same time?

There are two reasons. First, Hollywood gag writers show all of them activating for comic or dramatic effect. They have shown this happening from someone merely lighting

## Deaths and Fire-Related Injuries



### New Hampshire Fire Deaths and Injuries (2005-2016)

66% of total fire deaths occurred in residential dwellings

117 people died in single-family home and townhouse fires with no fire sprinklers

322 civilian injuries in single-family home and townhouse fires with no fire sprinklers

0 fire deaths in homes protected with fire sprinklers

Source: New Hampshire Fire Incident Reporting System



Each sprinkler protects an area below, and when heated by fire, activates.



### PEACE OF MIND

There is tremendous confidence in fire sprinklers that boosts an almost perfect success record. New Hampshire requires fire sprinklers in newly constructed townhomes and multi-unit housing with three or more units. Between 2005 and 2016, 66 percent of all fire deaths occurred in residential dwellings. During this timeframe, there were more than 60 fires in multi-unit and single-family homes, all sprinklered, resulting in no fire deaths.

# Understanding Fire Sprinkler Protection for Homes

Fire kills more people in the United States annually than all natural disasters combined. Ironically, most fire deaths occur in the very place where we feel safest — our own homes. Those at highest risk are very young children, older adults and people with disabilities, who may have difficulty making a quick escape.

Home fire sprinklers provide powerful protection from fire. They work automatically and immediately, before a fire spreads.

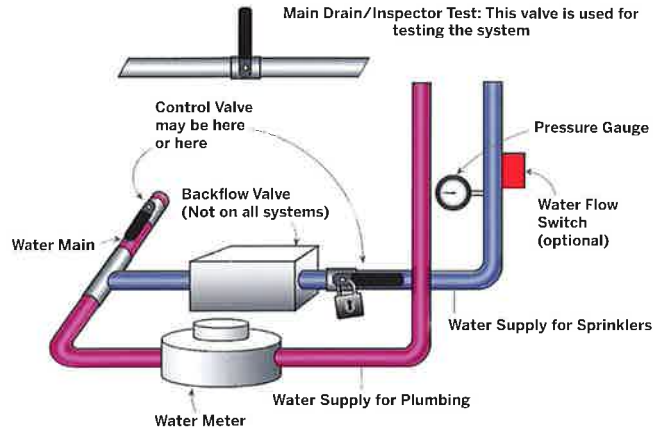
## DO SPRINKLERS REALLY SAVE LIVES?

Sprinklers are the most effective fire safety devices ever invented. The National Fire Protection Association reports that smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by about one-third. Having both sprinklers and smoke alarms installed reduces the risk of dying in a home fire by about 80%.

## DO SPRINKLERS SAVE PROPERTY?

Home fire sprinklers are of the quick-response type which means they are designed to save lives. Since they control fires so quickly, they also reduce damage to the property and other valuables. Fire reports nationwide show that property damage is significantly lower in sprinklered homes.

# Care and Upkeep



Home fire sprinklers are relatively maintenance-free. There are a few simple items that are recommended and they can be accomplished by the homeowner.

The most important items include the following:

- Keep the main water valve open.
  - It is important to know the location of the main valve so it can very simply be visually inspected.
- Do not hang items from the sprinklers.
- Make sure the fire sprinklers do not get painted or obstructed.

A homeowner may also opt to employ the services of a sprinkler contractor who performs maintenance services professionally. Ask if they have experience with residential fire sprinkler installations.