



# Residential Fire Sprinklers Information Sheet

Like the fire sprinklers found in most commercial buildings, residential sprinklers stand ready 24 hours a day to detect and suppress fires before they can become a threat to lives or property. As life safety devices, residential fire sprinklers are designed to react more quickly than their commercial cousins and thus need less water to do their work. Each sprinkler operates independently, so only those in the affected area go off. One or two sprinklers with only a small amount of water extinguish most home fires.

## Water supplies

Fire sprinklers require a reliable source of water; either a city water connection or a storage tank with at least 100 gallons and a pump. Sprinklers can share a common supply and piping with the domestic water system, which will reduce cost, but require additional storage capacity.

## Proper design

Many manufactured home suppliers offer fire sprinklers as an option. When sprinklers are installed after the home is constructed, it is important to use a qualified designer and installer. For example, sloped or beamed ceilings require special design and installation considerations. Look for a certified fire sprinkler contractor.

## Maintenance

Fire sprinkler systems require periodic maintenance and inspection. This is not a do-it-yourself job and should be left to a qualified contractor. Never paint sprinklers, it can prevent them from operating in a fire.

## Insurance savings

If you have fire sprinklers you may be eligible for a discount on your property insurance. Ask your agent.

## Don't forget smoke alarms

Even though fire sprinklers are effective life safety devices, you still need smoke alarms. Some fires begin as smoldering fires that produce smoke and gases but don't generate enough heat to activate the sprinklers. Smoke alarms provide warning for these situations.

### Questions?

Contact the Fire Prevention Division  
at 952-563-8933  
or Fire Marshal Laura McCarthy  
at 952-563-8965.