



RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS and OTHER INFORMATION

1. **WHAT IS A RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER?** A specially designed sprinkler developed to make small domestic water supplies effective for sprinkler protection. Residential sprinklers control a fire before small rooms fill with toxic smoke or gases.
2. **EIGHT OUT OF TEN FIRE DEATHS** IN THE U.S. OCCUR IN THE HOME.***
3. **HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS** can contain, or may even extinguish, a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.
4. **WHO CAN INSTALL RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS?** Systems can be installed by licensed contractors, or the homeowner in Minnesota if the system is properly designed.
5. **WHAT DOES A RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEM COST?** Costs vary widely based on coverage of the system, water supply, new or existing homes, etc. For new constructions, installed by a sprinkler contractor, average costs are in the \$1.00/ft² to \$2.00/ft² range. Installation in existing homes will cost more.
6. **SOME MUNICIPALITIES OFFER LOW INTEREST INCENTIVE PLANS** to sprinkler your home, prorated into your taxes. These costs may be a tax write off. Also, insurance from homeowner underwriters will vary depending on type of coverage. The discounts now range between 5-15%, with a projected increase in available discounts.

MYTHS and FACTS

1. **MYTH:** When one sprinkler goes off, all the sprinklers activate.
FACT! Only the sprinkler over the fire will activate. The sprinkler heads react to temperatures in each room individually. Thus, fire in a bedroom will activate only the sprinkler in that room.
2. **MYTH:** A sprinkler could accidentally go off, causing severe water damage to a home.
FACT! Records, which have been compiled for well over 50 years, prove the likelihood of this occurring is very remote. Furthermore, home sprinklers will be specifically designed and will be rigorously tested to minimize such accidents.
3. **MYTH:** Water damage from a sprinkler system will be more extensive than fire damage.
FACT! The sprinkler system will severely limit a fire's growth. Therefore, damage from a home sprinkler system will be much less severe than the smoke and fire damage if the fire had gone on unabated. Quick response sprinklers release 13-24 gallons of water per minute compared to 250 gallons per minute released by a fire hose.
4. **MYTH:** Home sprinkler systems are expensive.
FACT! Current estimates suggest that when a home is under construction, a home sprinkler system could cost less than 1% of the total building price.
5. **MYTH:** Residential sprinkles are ugly.
FACT! The traditional, commercial-type sprinklers as well as sprinklers for home use are now being designed to fit in with most any decor.

* Source: Fire Loss in the United States, published by the National Fire Protection Association.

** Statistics are from 2000 thru 2002, not including the events of 9/11.