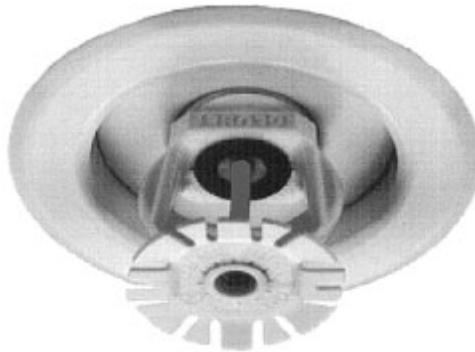


The Facts About Residential Sprinklers

Residential sprinklers provide excellent fire protection because they can control, contain or extinguish fires until help arrives.

Sprinklers limit smoke development and spread, giving occupants more time to evacuate and significantly reducing the likelihood of injury and death due to smoke inhalation.



Sprinkler success stories...

In 2001, the City of Vancouver credited residential sprinkler systems with reducing average annual fire losses by more than 90 percent. The city has experienced zero fire deaths in homes protected by functioning sprinklers.

In Scottsdale, Arizona the average fire loss in homes with sprinklers was just \$2,166 compared to \$45,019 in homes without sprinklers.

For more information about residential sprinklers, visit: www.firesafeontario.com and www.homefiresprinkler.org

Key Messages:

- ✓ Young children, older adults and people with disabilities are at higher risk of being injured or killed in a fire because they may be unable to react quickly. Sprinklers control or extinguish fires, providing occupants more time to safely escape.
- ✓ Because they can control or extinguish fires, sprinklers reduce the risks faced by firefighters when they must fight a fully-involved fire or rescue trapped occupants.



Myth: Residential sprinklers cause water damage.

Fact: One sprinkler discharges less water in 10 minutes than a fire hose discharges in 1 minute. Uncontrolled fires cause significantly more damage than sprinklers.

Myth: If one sprinkler goes off, they all will.

Fact: Because sprinklers are triggered by heat, not smoke, the sprinkler in the immediate vicinity of the fire will activate. Typically, only one sprinkler is activated to extinguish or limit a fire.

Myth: Residential sprinklers might discharge by accident.

Fact: Sprinkler heads only discharge if a fire raises the temperature beyond the sprinkler trigger point (typically 57-74°C or 135-165°F). The odds of an accidental discharge due to a manufacturing defect are 1 in 16 million.

Myth: Residential sprinklers are unnecessary because new houses are safer than older houses.

Fact: Studies indicate that modern homes smoulder longer, then burn hotter and faster than 35 years ago. Most fire deaths are the result of toxic smoke generated by the burning contents of a home.



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Fact

Residential sprinklers cost 1 to 1.5 per cent of the cost to build a new home—a cost equivalent to most home upgrades.

