



Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA leads the drive to get life-saving and property protecting fire sprinklers into all buildings; provides support and resources for its members – fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers; and educates authorities having jurisdiction on fire protection issues. Headquartered in Linthicum Heights, MD, NFSA has regional operations offices throughout the country.



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**FYI Series:  
RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS**

# Fire Sprinkler Facts

**Home Buyer Edition**



# Fire Sprinkler Facts

## WHY ARE FIRE SPRINKLERS NECESSARY IN YOUR HOME??

- Modern homes are built using lightweight construction and are filled with furnishings made of synthetic materials. Lightweight construction and synthetic furnishings burn hotter and faster today.
- Modern homes burn 8 times, 800%, FASTER than older homes. You may only have 3 minutes after the smoke alarm goes off to get your family out safely!
- Approximately 3,000 people die in fires in America every year. 80% of fire deaths occur in single family homes.
- One home fire is reported every 85 seconds.
- One person is injured in a fire every 33 minutes.
- One person dies in a fire every 162 minutes.
- Residential fire sprinklers reduce the chance of death in a fire by over 80%.

## HOW DO FIRE SPRINKLERS WORK?

- Fire sprinklers are activated by heat. Smoke will not activate a fire sprinkler.
- Only the sprinkler head activated by the heat will discharge. Water from the sprinkler contains or extinguishes the fire.
- In 90% of structure fires, only one or two sprinkler heads activate, protecting surrounding rooms from fire, heat, smoke and often water damage.
- The average sprinkler discharges 15 - 26 gallons of water per minute, compared to 150 - 250 gallons per minute by just one fire hose. If it takes approximately five minutes to extinguish a house fire by the fire department, over 1,000 gallons of water would be used by the fire department versus only 130 gallons from a fire sprinkler for the same amount of time.

## WHAT ARE THE COST BENEFITS OF FIRE SPRINKLERS?

- Home fires resulted in \$9.5 billion in property damage in 2013.
- In homes with fire sprinklers, the average property loss is cut by nearly 70% compared to a home without sprinklers.
- It was reported that homes with fire sprinklers report an average property loss of \$2,166 after a fire compared to more than \$45,000 in an unsprinklerd home.
- Nationwide average cost for a residential fire sprinkler system is 1-1.5% of the total home construction cost. Visit [nfsa.org](http://nfsa.org) to ensure you get a licensed fire sprinkler contractor to assist you.
- Often as an incentive for customers, insurance companies offer discounts ranging from 5% to 25% off the fire portion of homeowner premiums.
- 3 out of every 10 households will experience a fire. While only a few grow large enough to summon the fire department, don't live on luck — include fire sprinklers in your home!



**Fire is devastating to people's lives when they are burned. The costs of care is extremely high causing physical, emotional, and financial burdens to all.**

Source: Fire in the United States, 2003-2007, U.S. Fire Administration