

Sprinklers are effective

Fire sprinklers are by far the most efficient and effective safety devices available, having an incredible success rate, worldwide, in excess of 97%.

Sprinklers are successful

In buildings fully protected by sprinklers, 99% of fires were controlled by sprinklers alone and 60% of fires were controlled by the spray from no more than 4 sprinklers.

Life Safety Record

In the UK, statistics show that there has never been a multiple loss of life in a fully sprinklered building.

Early alarms

More than 50 per cent of all fire casualties are either young, old, or physically incapacitated. In conjunction with smoke alarms, fire sprinklers sound the alarm when they operate and therefore increase the time people have to escape, or be rescued.

Sprinklers are inexpensive

Residential fire sprinklers can cost less than two per cent of an average new house - or about the price of good carpeting.

Sprinklers are reliable

Sprinklers are designed to last for 50 years and the chance of accidental operation in service, due to manufacturing defects is 1:16,000,000 (one in sixteen million) - less than your chance of winning the lottery!

Operational facts

Each sprinkler is individually triggered by the heat of the fire. The system will gain control of the fire long before the Fire and Rescue Service is called. Only the sprinkler head near to the fire goes off - NOT all of them.

Limited water damage

Sprinklers use much less water than the Fire and Rescue Service. Because the sprinkler system tackles the fire immediately, it only has a small fire to deal with. A fire sprinkler uses between 1/25th and 1/100th of the water discharged by each fire hose, so in the event of a fire, sprinklers will minimise water damage.

Easy to install

Modern residential sprinklers are small, neat and unobtrusive and visitors are seldom able to spot them – concealed versions are now available.

Construction trade-offs

Sprinklers can save on construction costs because, under the Building Regulations, larger compartments or rooms may be constructed. Structural fire protection can also be reduced.



How do sprinklers operate?

Sprinklers are simple devices that are individually operated by the heat from a fire.

When a fire starts a plume of hot gases rise to the ceiling. If a sprinkler is present, a glass bulb or solder link gets hot and at a specific temperature (typically 68°C) breaks, releasing a cap and allowing water to flow onto a specially designed diffuser.

The diffuser breaks up the water flow into carefully controlled droplets which penetrate the fire plume and cool the burning material to below its ignition point, thus controlling the fire.

Only the sprinkler(s) directly over the fire are operated.

The sprinklers are connected to pipework, usually filled with water, which is supplied either from the water mains or from a storage tank via a pump. When a sprinkler operates, the flow of water in the pipework operates a flow switch which in turn operates an alarm system.

The flow of water is small, usually **less than 1/100th** of the water used by the Fire and Rescue Service.

Sprinklers **do not** go off accidentally and are only triggered by real fires.

Sprinklers are very reliable and only **1 in 16,000,000** exhibit any form of manufacturing defect.

Sprinklers **save lives, buildings, stock, assets and jobs**. They also help **prevent carbon gases** by reducing fires.



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