

Residential Sprinklers: The Time Has Come!

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We have all seen commercial sprinkler systems in our office buildings, schools and factories. They have actually existed for over a century. But what about our homes? Although we protect our businesses from fire, what actions do we take to protect our families, our homes and our possessions from fire? Millions of Americans have installed smoke alarms in their homes in the past few years, but a smoke alarm can only alert the occupants to a fire in the house. It cannot contain or extinguish a fire. Residential fire sprinkler systems can.

According to the United States Fire Administration, in 2006, 19 percent of all reported U.S. fires occurred in one- and two-family structures, and caused 66 percent of the nation's fire fatalities. This was more than 2,100 people who died in their homes as a result of a fire. Home fires take the lives of about 25 firefighters per year. Fire sprinklers have been demonstrated to reduce the chance of dying in a residential fire by 69 percent. When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are installed in a home, the risk of dying is reduced by 82 percent versus a home lacking both! Home fire sprinklers can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene. Fire sprinklers can not only save lives, reduce property loss and but they can even help cut homeowner insurance premiums.

How do they work? According to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, home fire sprinklers are technologically very advanced, but the basic way they work is simple.

- Fire sprinklers have no moving parts and act simply as a water plug that releases at a particular temperature. *Unlike what we see on T.V., only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire.*
- Sprinklers are HEAT activated. Not smoke or steam activated.
- Ninety percent of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.
- Modern residential sprinklers are inconspicuous and can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings.
- There is less water damage than with a fire hose. Fire Hose = 150 gpm (gallons per minute) per hose (often more than one hose is required to extinguish a working house fire).
- Sprinkler head = 8-16 gpm per head (typically one sprinkler)

head).

- Sprinkler systems can be retrofit for existing homes.
- It is possible to receive insurance discounts of up to 25%.
- COST is about 1% of a new home's price.
- Can be installed on a well system.

The time has come for the senseless loss of life and property due to fires!