

Home Fire Sprinkler Talking Points

Home Fire Sprinklers save lives by reducing flame, heat, and smoke of a fire. They activate in the early stages of a fire and prevent flashover, a dangerous stage of a fire when everything in the room bursts into flames. Toxic smoke in an unprotected home can fill the house killing people far from the fire.

Home Fire Sprinklers are activated by the high heat of a nearby fire. When the heat of a nearby fire (about 155° F) reaches a fire sprinkler it activates. Water from the attached pipe flows through the sprinkler and onto the fire. Generally only one or two sprinklers activate in a house fire.

Smoke, fire alarms, and other fire sprinklers do not activate a fire sprinkler. Each sprinkler activates individually by high heat. They do not all activate at once. Smoke does not activate a fire sprinkler so smoke alarms are still an important part of home fire safety. It is possible to have smoke without flames.

Most home fire sprinklers are placed in the ceiling with a concealing plate or are mounted on the side wall. The concealing plate falls away at about 140° F to uncover the fire sprinkler. Most home fire sprinklers are specially painted white or almond to blend into the ceiling or wall; some are even wood grain in appearance.

Home Fire Sprinklers reduce damage from a fire. Fire Sprinklers activate when the fire is relatively small, use less water than fire hoses (94% less) to control the same fire and usually only one or two sprinklers are activated. (Mist sprinklers use 99% less water than traditional sprinklers.) Restoring a home after a fire with fire sprinklers costs 89% less than one without fire sprinklers and generally only takes one or two days. (Costs and water usage come from *The Scottsdale Report*, a 10-year study of home fire sprinklers.)

The average cost of installing home fire sprinklers is \$1.61 per square foot of sprinklers. This value includes design, permits, tanks and local requirements. Home fire sprinklers are generally not required in attics, garages, bathrooms or closets. (*Home Fire Sprinkler Costs Assessment report*, Fire Protection Research Foundation)