

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee

TIP Sheet: Home Fire Sprinklers



The Maryland State Firemen's Association wants you to understand the importance of Residential Fire Sprinklers.

Over 80% of fire deaths occur in the home. Home fire sprinklers can save lives.

They respond quickly and effectively to fire, often extinguishing the fire before the fire department arrives. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water on the fire.

Fire Sprinklers are designed to allow more time to escape the effects of fire.

The quick action of a fire sprinkler helps to protect first responders by containing the fire to the fire origin, thereby reducing the chance for injuries and/or death.



- Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small.
- The cost of a home fire sprinkler system in a new home averages \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot totaling an amount similar to what is spent for carpet upgrades, paving stone driveway or a whirlpool bath. Visit the Maryland State Fire Marshal at the following link to find certified/approved sprinkler companies for Maryland <http://mdsp.maryland.gov/firemarshal/Pages/SprinklerContractors.aspx>
Source: Fire Protection Research Foundation Study 2013.
- A home fire sprinkler system can reduce the homeowner's insurance premium.
- Fire sprinklers are environmentally friendly. They can reduce the amount of water run-off and pollution, fire damage by up to 71%, and water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%.
Source: FM Global and Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Study 2010.
- Cigar, cigarette smoke or burnt toast will not activate a fire sprinkler. Materials found in homes today burn faster and at a higher heat release rate as compared to furnishings and small appliances made twenty or more years ago. Fires tend to grow much faster, which allows even less time to escape the deadly heat and toxins produced during a fire.
- A home fire sprinkler system is easy to maintain. We request you inspect your home monthly to make sure the sprinklers are not blocked by storage that would prevent the water from coming out such as paint and be sure the main control valve is never turned off.
- Home fire sprinklers are effective in cold and warm climates. Guidelines have been created for the proper installation of systems to avoid pipes freezing. A home fire sprinkler system should be winterized the same way a domestic water supply is winterized

Additional information about residential fire sprinklers may be found at these listed websites:

www.nfpa.org

www.nfsa.org

www.homefiresprinkler.org

www.firesafehome.org