



## Smoke Alarms Save Lives.

United States Fire Administration • 16825 South Seton Avenue • Emmitsburg, MD 21727  
www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms (English) • www.usfa.dhs.gov/detectoresdehumo (Spanish)

# Residential Fire Sprinkler Fact Sheet

*“All Americans should be protected against death, injury and property loss resulting from fire in their residences. All homes should be equipped with smoke alarms and automatic fire sprinklers, and families should prepare and practice emergency escape plans.”*  
- U.S. Fire Administration

### The Risk

- A residential structure fire occurs every 79 seconds\*
- In 2007, there were 2,895 civilian fire deaths\*
- In the same year there was an estimated 7.5 billion dollars in property damage\*
- Home sprinklers could have saved many of the lives lost and eliminated millions of dollars in property damage.

\*according to the United States Fire Administration

### Why Sprinklers?

While smoke alarms can alert occupants to a home fire, they cannot extinguish a fire. Sprinkler systems can!

### The Benefits

- Safer Fire Service:** The risk for firefighters decreases when home sprinklers are in use because sprinklers reduce the intensity of the fire by dousing the flame earlier.
- Fast Response:** Modern residential sprinklers are designed to respond to fire faster than commercial or industrial sprinkler systems, because they are more sensitive to heat.
- Aesthetically Pleasing:** Home fire sprinklers are smaller and less conspicuous than commercial or industrial types. Some color variations are available and some can be installed flush with the ceiling.
- Reliable:** Sprinkler systems exceed a 95 percent “fail-safe” status in laboratory testing. Sprinklers are individually activated only if there is a fire in which the heat escalates past that sprinkler’s trigger point.

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**U.S. Fire Administration Mission Statement**  
We provide national leadership to foster a solid foundation for local fire and emergency services for prevention, preparedness and response.



Investment Protection:	Sprinklers can prevent devastating home damage by extinguishing flames quickly. Sprinklers can limit the damage caused by smoke and fire and are less damaging than water damage caused by firefighting hose lines.
Simple Installation:	Installing a home sprinkler system to a home that is under construction or being remodeled requires minimal extra piping and labor and greatly increases the safety of residents.
Low Water Requirement:	Residential fire sprinklers can be connected to the domestic water supply and require less water than commercial and industrial systems.
Low Cost:	A sprinkler costs about \$1.61 per square foot. This cost is about the same as upgraded cabinets or carpet.
Lower Insurance:	Installing a sprinkler system has the potential to lower insurance rates by 5-15% by meeting code requirements.