

Dispelling the Myths

MYTH #1 - All of the sprinkler heads go off at once. **FALSE:** It takes the temperature to rise to 155° at each head before they go off.

MYTH #2 - When fire sprinklers go off they automatically summon the fire department. **FALSE:** The only time the fire department will be called is if you call 9-1-1 or if your sprinklers are monitored by an alarm company.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Question: Will the water damage from my sprinklers be extensive?

Answer: Water damage due to fire sprinkler activation is significantly less than the damage that would result from traditional fire fighting.

Question: I want to remodel my house. Do I need a permit to revise my sprinkler system?

Answer: Your system may or may not need to be modified. Check with the City's Fire Prevention Department at (925)-833-6606.

*This brochure can be found at the
Fire Prevention Department or at
www.dublin.ca.gov/brochures/resfiresprinklers*



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RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER NEWS



CITY OF DUBLIN



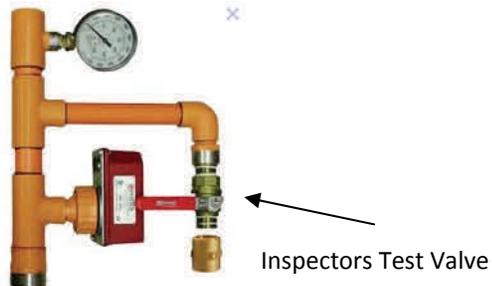
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Like the fire sprinklers found in most commercial buildings, your residential sprinkler stands ready 24 hours a day to detect and suppress fires before they can become a threat to lives or property. As life safety devices, residential fire sprinklers are designed to react more quickly than their commercial cousins and thus need less water to do their work. Each sprinkler operates independently, so only those in the affected area go off. One or two sprinklers with only a small amount of water can extinguish most home fires.

Fire sprinkler systems require periodic maintenance. **This is not a do-it-yourself job and should be done by a qualified contractor.**

Insurance Discounts:

Did you know most insurance companies in America today offer discounts on residential fire insurance policies?



KNOW YOUR SYSTEMS COMPONENTS:

1. Riser: This is the vertical part of your sprinkler system. It is located in your garage and is sometimes enclosed by a box.
2. Inspectors Test Valve: This is a valve that is located on the fire riser. It can be used to test the fire bell on your system. This valve is also in your garage and should have a sign saying "Inspectors Test Valve" identifying it (see diagram on left).
3. Gauge: Found on the riser. Shows if the sprinkler system has water on it.
4. Fire Bell: This is the red bell that is located on the outside of your house. This bell will sound if water is flowing from your sprinkler system.
5. Shut-Off Valve: This valve is the same as the one you would use to shut off the main water to your house. It is usually located in one of two places: either at the water meter or where the supply pipe enters your home.
6. Sprinkler Heads: Sprinkler heads are located on the ceiling of your home and in some cases at the very top of the wall. You may not see anything more than a round metal disc on the ceiling.
7. Spare Head Box: This is the small red box hanging on the wall of your garage next to the riser. Inside the box you will find spare sprinkler heads and a wrench.
8. Escutcheons: These are the small metal discs that either cover or surround your sprinkler heads. Escutcheons are used to seal gaps, maintain ratings and make sprinklers more aesthetically pleasing.

Checking Your System:

In addition to the periodic maintenance that your contractor performs, you should check your system bi-annually by making sure that:

- 1) All escutcheons are in place.
- 2) Sprinkler heads have not been painted.
- 3) Sprinkler heads are not obstructed.
- 4) Nothing is hanging from the sprinkler heads.
- 5) There is a spare head box hanging in the garage and there are at least three heads and a wrench in the box.



Spare Sprinkler Head Box