

# Residential & Domestic fire sprinklers – facts you should know



**Fire sprinklers save lives.** Fire in the home is responsible for about 75% of all fire related deaths and injuries here in the UK.



**Unlike smoke detectors,** fire sprinklers operate to extinguish or control a fire – even if no one is present.



**Each sprinkler is individually triggered** directly by the heat from a fire. A significant amount of heat is required for a couple of minutes for a sprinkler to operate, and only the sprinkler directly affected by the fire goes off (**NOT** all of them).



**Residential low flow sprinklers** are so small, neat and unobtrusive visitors are seldom able to spot them. The concealed versions are very compact and will match any décor



**Sprinklers use much LESS water** than the Fire Service. They tackle the fire immediately, leaving the Fire Fighters with a much smaller fire to deal with when they arrive. A fire sprinkler uses between 1% and 4% of the water used by EACH Fire Brigade hose, so in the event of a fire, sprinklers will actually *minimise* water damage.



**Fire sprinklers are very reliable.** They are mechanical devices, and are very robust. Records show that the chance of accidental operation is about one in sixteen million.



**As important 'life safety' devices,** residential and domestic fire sprinklers are used to greatly extend the time to escape or be rescued from a burning building. There are already many instances where fire sprinklers have activated and saved lives in the UK.



**In some countries of the world** fire sprinklers are mandatory in all new dwellings. In the UK, the current statutory requirement is for sprinklers to be installed in specific situations as required by Document B fire regulations.



**Water supplies used** to provide the sprinkler feed include a direct or dedicated mains cold water connection. If the mains water is not sufficient then an automatic fire pump may be required.



**A simple annual service** will ensure that the systems are kept in good working order. Fire sprinklers are designed to remain in service for a very long time, and can continue to provide protection for 40 years or more.

