



HOME FIRE SPRINKLER FACT SHEET



New York Consistently Leads the Nation in At-Home Fire Deaths

- New York State once again led the nation for at-home fire fatalities in 2024, with a total of 138 civilian deaths. California – which has twice our population, came in second in 2024 with 131 home fire deaths.
- Since 2013, New York has been among the top five states in the nation for at-home fire fatalities. Throughout those 12 years, New York came in first for civilian fire deaths by state in 2024, 2023, 2019, 2018 and 2017.

Home Fire Sprinkler Fact Sheet *Courtesy of the [Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition](#)*

- Nationwide, more than 2,500 people die in fires each year. Children, older adults and people with disabilities are at the greatest risk.
- A house fire can become deadly in less than two minutes. Sprinklers will contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it takes the fire department to arrive.
- New houses burn just as often as old houses and are more deadly because of modern building materials.
- Installing both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers reduces the risk of death in a home fire by 82%, relative to having neither.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. Ninety percent of home fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.
- Fire sprinklers are green. They reduce water usage, water runoff and toxins released by fire and use only a fraction of the water used by fire department hoses.
- Modern residential sprinklers are inconspicuous and can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings.
- An additional benefit of home fire sprinklers is that in many cases property damage from smoke and fire is limited to one space rather than the entire house.

Home Fire Sprinkler Data *(source: [here](#))*

- According to the NFPA, the 2021 civilian fire death rate was 89% lower in structures with installed fire sprinklers compared to those without them.
- The rate of firefighter injuries was 60% lower in fires with sprinklers than in fires without sprinklers.
- A recent national fire safety survey by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) found that 86% of adults of all ages said fire safety was important when they search for a new home.
- After learning how home fire sprinklers work, 80% of millennials said they would prefer to buy a home with fire sprinklers.
- Most insurance companies provide a 5% discount on the fire protection portion of homeowner's insurance premiums for homes that have a sprinkler system. That insurance benefit is particularly important as climate events have made homeowner's insurance increasingly costly and more difficult to obtain.

Environmental Benefits of Home Fire Sprinklers

- A 2010 study by FM Global and HFSC, reaffirmed by researchers in 2021, compared the environmental impact of sprinklered and non-sprinklered home fires and found:
 - > Greenhouse gas emissions were cut by 97.8%.
 - > Water usage was reduced between 50% and 91%.
 - > Fewer persistent pollutants, such as heavy metals, were found in sprinkler wastewater versus fire hose water.
 - > The high pH level and pollutant load of non-sprinkler wastewater are an environmental concern.
- FM Global's 2021 Environmental Impact of Residential Fires Review, found that since 2010:
 - > 1,800,215,826 lb. (816,564,163 kg) of greenhouse gases have been emitted into the atmosphere due to the lack of home fire sprinklers.
 - > Installed home fire sprinklers would have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 97% to 54,006,475 lb. (24,496,925 kg).

Home Fire Sprinkler Myths *Courtesy of the [Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition](#)*

Myth: If one goes off, they all go off

Fact: Sprinkler activate independently; only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate

Myth: Sprinklers will leak

Fact: Sprinkler mishaps are generally less likely and less severe than home plumbing system problems.

Myth: Water damage from sprinklers is worse than fire damage

Fact: A sprinkler flows 10-26 gallons of water per minute. The property loss in a sprinklered home fire is a small fraction of the typical loss in an unsprinklered home fire.

Myth: Sprinklers will freeze in the winter

Fact: The national installation standard provides guidance for proper installation in cold regions.

Myth: The fire department will be able to put out the fire and save my things

Fact: In the 9-12 minutes a fire department needs to respond, an uncontrolled fire will grow and spread through the home, causing tremendous smoke and fire damage.

Myth: I have smoke alarms so I don't need sprinklers

Fact: Smoke alarms are essential in every home. But they can only detect a fire. Fire sprinklers detect the fire and automatically control it, saving lives and property.

Myth: My insurance premiums will go up

Generally insurance rates will go down because fire sprinklers will keep damage low. Shop around; the savings vary by insurance company.