

So why are we not fitting fire sprinklers?

Although they have been around for a long time most people are unaware of the facts about fire sprinklers. Many believe that they go off if someone smokes a cigarette, or that they all operate when there is a fire and spray out a lot of water unnecessarily, or that they are expensive. Now you've read this booklet you know that none of this is true.

Sadly, each year fire kills over 3,000 Europeans and causes over €10 billion in property damage. This huge drain on our society is unnecessary. As a first step we should start now to fit fire sprinklers in high risk buildings, then go on to fit them in all new construction.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. If you would like to know more about fire sprinklers or would like to support our call for them to be fitted in high risk buildings and new buildings, please contact us at the address below.

"FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES!"



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The European Fire Sprinkler Network is a wide coalition across the European fire safety community. Its members believe that fire sprinklers have the potential to make a major contribution to fire safety and through the network encourage the introduction of legislation calling for fire sprinklers to be fitted. If you would like to be part of this coalition please contact us using the details above – we want your support and would be delighted to hear from you.



EUROPEAN FIRE
SPRINKLER NETWORK

A simple tool to save lives and property from fire



Fire sprinklers are one of the most effective means to save life and property from fire. Sadly, due to common misconceptions they are rarely fitted in commercial and residential buildings. This booklet sets out the facts about fire sprinklers, so that readers can see the benefits of this technology.

What are fire sprinklers?

- A fire sprinkler sprays water evenly onto a fire below it
- Only the fire sprinkler above a fire will open and spray water
- Fire sprinklers are small and unobtrusive – you have probably often walked below fire sprinklers and not seen them.



How do they work?

All the fire sprinklers are connected to a network of pipes, hanging in the roof or hidden in the ceiling, permanently filled with water under pressure.

Each fire sprinkler has a water seal held closed by a thermal element. When there is a fire below, heat rises and the thermal element gets hot. At a set temperature it falls away releasing the water seal.

Water is sprayed evenly over the area under the fire sprinkler, knocking down the flames.

What about reliability?

More than 100 years of experience have shown that fire sprinklers control the fire in 98% of cases. This is better than any other fire protection measure.



Can fire sprinklers make a difference?

Fire sprinklers were invented over 100 years ago. Europe has never recorded a multiple death in a building protected by fire sprinklers.

Cities in North America that fit fire sprinklers in all buildings have reduced fire injuries and fire property losses by over 80%. They have almost eliminated fire deaths. Fire sprinklers are the best way to protect you and your property from fire.

Are they expensive?

To fit fire sprinklers usually costs less than 1% of the cost of the building.

And often it is possible to make savings on other fire protection measures, so the cost can be neutral while you gain a big improvement in fire safety.

What about smoke?

Fire sprinklers react to heat so they do not operate if you smoke or burn something in the kitchen. When there is a real fire they quickly control it so that the fire produces less smoke.

Will the water cause a lot of damage?

Fire sprinklers attack a fire before it can grow, so usually only one or two operate and control the fire. Left to burn the fire would get much larger and the fire brigade would need to use much more water to put it out.

