



**Cheshire**  
Fire & Rescue Service

# SPRINKLERS

## The facts

You can have a firefighter in every room ready to deal with a fire as soon as it starts.

This is exactly what sprinklers are  
... instant firefighters.

- **Safe** - there have been no recorded fire deaths in a building fitted with correctly installed and maintained residential sprinklers.
- **Protect** - sprinklers can save lives. They control fires quickly, significantly reducing damage to property.
- **Water damage** - only the sprinkler affected by the fire will activate using a controlled quantity of water.
- **False activation** - there is a 1 in 16 million chance that a sprinkler will discharge due to a manufacturing defect.
- **Cost effective** - sprinklers cost as little as £125 per room. Considerable savings can also be made on conventional fire safety protection measures.

Visit the website for information



**Keep up to date with what is happening in Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service:**



[www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/business-safety](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/business-safety)



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Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service



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# SPRINKLERS The myths

**Sprinklers are the most efficient and effective fire safety device. They are not only available for industrial and commercial buildings but for residential properties too. Apart from explosions, there have been no fatalities in a fully-sprinklered building in the UK. Here we dispel the myths and misconceptions surrounding how sprinklers actually work.**

- **A smoke detector provides enough protection**

Smoke detectors save lives by providing a warning system but can do nothing to extinguish a growing fire or protect those physically unable to escape on their own. Too often, battery operated smoke detectors fail to function because the batteries are dead or have been removed.

- **Water damage is as bad as fire damage**

A typical sprinkler discharges 55 litres per minute. A firefighting hose discharges over 600 litres per minute. You can expect a sprinkler to discharge less than 5 per cent of the water used by the fire service, minimising water and fire damage.

- **Sprinkler systems are expensive**

It is estimated that the costs of a sprinkler system can be recovered over a period of about 10 years. This is achieved through reduced insurance premiums and in larger organisations, through less disruption to business continuity when a fire occurs. Installed in a new building a sprinkler system should not cost more than 1-2 per cent of the total build cost.

**For FREE business fire safety advice, visit our website or contact your local Protection team:**

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