

THE MYTHS AND THE FACTS...

MYTH: Sprinkler systems are expensive.

FACT: It is estimated that the cost 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 if a fire occurs. When installed in a new building a sprinkler system should cost no more than 1-2% of the total build cost.

MYTH: Sprinklers can go off accidentally.

FACT: Records show that the chance of an accidental discharge from a sprinkler is in the region of 16 million to 1.

MYTH: When there is a fire, all the sprinkler heads go off at once.

FACT: This only happens in the movies! In reality, each head is independent and only the head(s) adjacent to the fire will go off.

MYTH: Water damage is as bad as the fire damage.

FACT: A typical sprinkler discharges 55 litres of water per minute. A firefighting hose discharges over 600 litres per minute. You can expect a sprinkler to discharge less than 5% of the water used by the fire service.

For more information on fire safety, visit
www.northyorksfire.gov.uk

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**NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**



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SPRINKLERS

Active fire protection for your business

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IF YOU'RE STILL NOT CONVINCED OF THE BENEFITS...

Sprinklers:

Are environmentally friendly

Sprinklers help to protect the environment by controlling a fire in its early stages, preventing airborne and water run-off pollution.

Save water

Statistics show that widespread use of sprinklers could save up to 96% of the 5.6 billion litres of water used annually in the UK to fight large fires. This is equivalent to three months supply of water for the entire population of a city the size of Leeds.

Allow design flexibility

Sprinklers can save on building costs because under Building Regulations larger compartment sizes may be constructed. Reduced boundary and extended distances to fire exits are also permitted.



Give legal protection

Owners/occupiers/employers can be held legally responsible for the consequences of a fire if adequate precautions have not been taken. Sprinklers protect the lives of firefighters and are fully supported by the fire services.

Are easy to install

Sprinkler systems can be fitted into existing buildings. One company fitted sprinklers into a major London hotel whilst the hotel was over 95% occupied.

Are reliable

Sprinkler systems have been proven in use for well over 100 years, during which time they have a 99% success rate worldwide. Systems over 100 years old are still in full working order today.

Are popular

There are 40 million sprinklers fitted worldwide every year.

Have a life safety record

In the UK there has never been a fire death in a building with a fully maintained sprinkler system.

Save money

Losses from fires in buildings with sprinklers are estimated to be only one tenth of those in unprotected buildings.

Limit water damage

Firefighters often use 20 times more water from hoses to do the same job as a sprinkler. In tackling the Windsor Castle fire, 7 million litres of water were used.

Are cost effective to install

The cost of installing a sprinkler system is roughly equivalent to carpeting the same building. All the UK Royal Palaces could have sprinklers installed for the cost of the Windsor Castle fire.

Reduce insurance costs

Insurance companies can offer large discounts for buildings that are protected by sprinklers.

