

Why sprinklers?

Fire sprinklers are the most cost effective way to provide fire protection to buildings.

They are “green” ... reducing water usage and fire debris hauled to landfills.

They provide safety for occupants, property and firefighters.

Incentives for developers and builders.

Myths?

All sprinklers go off if there is a fire... only the head or heads closest to the fire will activate due to heat.

Burning toast will activate the sprinklers... only if the burning toast involves the cabinets above the toaster.

New homes don't have fires... all homes can have fires. In Olympia, we have a wide range of housing ages. Homes built today will be old someday.

New homes are safer... electrical and other built-in systems rarely cause fires, it's the people in the homes that cause most fires.

Sprinklers cause lots of water damage... according to the Scottsdale Report (Scottsdale has had a residential sprinkler ordinance for more than 20 years), a residential fire sprinkler system uses about 340 gallons of water to control a fire on average. Firefighters, on average, used almost 3,000 gallons.

Costs

The national average for installation is \$1.61 per square foot. The Tualatin Valley Fire Authority (OR) did a significant study and found “multi-purpose combined systems” to average \$1.90 per square foot. “Stand-alone systems” averaged \$3.52 per square foot. Multi-purpose systems combine sprinkler supply piping with some of the normal plumbing piping and are typically installed by certified plumbers. The City of Dupont's Northwest Landing development has almost exclusively used multi-purpose systems for single family dwellings. We have recently used them in Olympia on a couple of small projects.