

# Following the installation of a Residential Sprinkler System within your home, we would like to bring the following information to your attention:



## ✔ PLEASE DO:

- ✔ Report immediately to Stockport Homes any leaks associated with the sprinklers.
- ✔ Report immediately to Stockport Homes any damage to the sprinkler heads or white cover plates.
- ✔ Report immediately to Stockport Homes if any sprinkler valve is suspected to be closed.
- ✔ Report immediately to Stockport Homes any sprinkler heads or white cover plates that have been accidentally painted or decorated over.
- ✔ Take care not to 'knock' the sprinkler or white cover plates, even small collisions can lead to malfunctions.

## ✘ PLEASE DO NOT:

- ✘ Obstruct the sprinkler heads in any way with boxes, storage units, suitcases etc.
- ✘ Paint or decorate over the sprinkler heads or white cover plates including filling the gap between the white coverplate and the ceiling, wall or boxing.
- ✘ Tamper with the sprinkler heads or white cover plates in any way.
- ✘ Open or tamper with the sprinkler pipework encasement boxing or valve access panels.
- ✘ Have any direct heat sources near the sprinkler heads such as electric heaters, hair dryers and steamers etc.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q: What is an automatic fire sprinkler system?

**A:** An automatic fire sprinkler system consisting of a water supply system, (town's main or pump(s) and tank(s), a network of pipes with sprinkler heads fitted to the pipes at regular intervals throughout a protected premises. They are designed to put as little water as possible on the seat of a fire at a very early stage of development.

## Q: Do all the sprinklers operate in a fire?

**A:** No. Only the sprinkler or sprinklers closest to the fire source operate. They do not all go off at the same time.

## Q: Can sprinklers operate accidentally?

**A:** Sprinkler heads are activated by heat from a fire and will not operate until the temperature reaches 68°C. There is no risk of activation by smoke, dust, fumes or moisture in the air. Records show that the chance of accidental discharge from a sprinkler head is in the region of 16 million to one.

## Q: Is water from a sprinkler head on a frying fat fire dangerous?

**A:** Sprinklers have extinguished many fires involving domestic frying fat fires. Initially the flames flare up but with the fine spray of water from the sprinkler heads, the heat is very quickly removed from the frying fat fire and the surrounding area, and the flames are extinguished.

## Q: Will sprinkler heads near a cooker operate accidentally?

**A:** Smoke will not operate a sprinkler head and it is highly unlikely that heat from cooking will set off a sprinkler head as the temperature will need to get to 68°C.

## Q: Why are sprinkler systems important for life safety?

**A:** Sprinkler systems do not rely upon human factors such as familiarity with escape routes or emergency assistance and go to work immediately to reduce the danger. Sprinkler systems prevent the fast developing fires of intense heat which are capable of trapping and killing building occupants.

## Q: How effective are sprinkler systems compared to fire alarm systems?

**A:** The chance of surviving a domestic fire are about 60% where smoke detectors are fitted. When sprinklers are also present the chance of survival is about 95%.

## Q: What is the life safety record for sprinklers?

**A:** Apart from explosions there have never been multiple fatalities in a fully sprinklered building in the United Kingdom. The total number of deaths from fire, world-wide in sprinklered buildings is only 50 compared to thousands in unprotected buildings. This is a record no other fire system can match.

## Q: Are sprinkler systems recognised and supported by Fire Services?

**A:** Sprinkler systems are widely recognised as the most effective method of fighting the spread of fires in their early stages. Sprinkler systems protect the lives of fire fighters and are fully supported by the Fire Services, and could virtually eliminate fire deaths.