

Say No to Sprinkler Mandates

Fire sprinkler installers and manufacturers are stepping up their efforts to mandate sprinkler systems in one- and two-family homes through the International Residential Code— even though code officials and elected leaders have overwhelmingly rejected these plans.

Here's what you need to know.

Sprinklers aren't cost effective.

The Fire Protection Research Foundation puts the average cost of a residential sprinkler system at \$6,000. That's not affordable to many families. In fact, just a \$1,000 increase in home prices keeps more than 200,000 households out of the market.



Smoke alarms work.

Sprinkler proponents say they have the numbers to prove their products work better – but those numbers are based largely on multi-family projects. Ensuring that every home had at least one working smoke alarm would save about 890 lives every year in our country. This would benefit everyone – not just those who can afford a new home.

Fires are more likely in older homes.

Home fires are tragic. But building codes apply only to new homes. And in states where we can match the age of affected homes with standard national fire data, fatalities are heavily concentrated in older homes. To reduce fatalities, we need to make older homes safer: Working smoke alarms make a life-saving difference.



Beware of false claims.

According to the National Fire Protection Association's U.S. Home Fires Fact Sheet, the leading cause of unintentional home fires are cooking equipment, heating equipment and electrical distribution and lighting equipment. Newer homes are built to a system of building codes explicitly designed to make homes safer, and reduce the need for makeshift lighting and heating solutions.

Residential fire sprinklers aren't designed to save property.

Fire sprinklers can even increase property loss because of the significant water damage they can cause. If the occupants are away or in a different part of the house – or if they accidentally discharge – the amount of water released can be quite considerable.



Learn more at
nahb.org/sprinklers