

Cost Benefit

Cost of installation analysis

As a guideline, the approximate cost of installation would be around 1-2% of the cost of the construction of a new school. However, incorporating sprinklers may lead to a number of savings:

Design freedoms

The use of sprinklers will usually allow design freedoms, which can reduce construction costs and improve usability of the school.

Insurance incentives

Sprinkler protection is looked on very favourably by insurers of schools, who will give premium discounts of up to 75%, and remove the compulsory excess, which can be as much as £1m.

Cost Benefit

These savings can mean that the cost of installation can be recovered within as little as 8 years.

More importantly, should there be a fire, the school will remain in operation, with damage limited to a small area.

Water Usage

A fire sprinkler uses between 1/25th and 1/100th of the water used by EACH Fire Brigade hose. Over 50% of fires are controlled by one or two sprinkler heads. Should a school protected by sprinklers experience a fire, damage will be localised and the remainder of the school unaffected. Even the damaged part of the school can be back in use within hours instead of months.

Lower maintenance costs

The cost of maintaining a sprinkler system in a school may amount to a few hundred pounds a year. This is low compared to maintenance of conventional fire protection, which may run into thousands of pounds each year,

Vandal-resistant

Where vandalism may be a problem the use of concealed sprinkler heads may remove the challenge. Experience to date from the 150 UK schools fitted with sprinkler systems has been not one case of vandalism of the sprinkler system, despite the fact many of the schools are situated in problem areas.



A concealed sprinkler - this is all you see!

If you would like more information about the FSA's campaign for Sprinklers in Schools, please log onto our website or call us:

The Fire Sprinkler Association

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Protect what you value most.



Protect what you value most.

On average there are 6 fires in schools every day in Britain

Fortunately no one has yet lost their life in the 2,000 school fires we experience each year in the UK, but for how much longer will we be so lucky?

Perhaps more disturbing are figures released by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which show that over 60% of school fires are started deliberately, and of these 90% result in major fires.

Although in the past most school fires started out of school hours, one third now start during the school day and this trend is growing...

The number of school fires has increased substantially over the last 10 years and now cost insurers in excess of £100m a year.

This is not the full cost because many schools are either self-insured or have to pay the first part of any claim, because they carry a substantial compulsory excess, which may range from £50,000 to £1m

However it is not just the financial cost of school fires that should concern us. Loss of coursework causes considerable mental stress to pupils and may mean they are prevented from passing crucial exams.

Moreover schools are now valuable facilities to the local community and their loss is felt far beyond the classroom.

Taking all of this into account the result in a typical year is around -

- 90,000 schoolchildren have their education disrupted
- 80,000 families are affected
- 320,000 people are involved
- resources are diverted



Why Fire Sprinklers?

Proven successful concept that's been around for over 140 years

Fire Sprinklers are by far the most efficient and effective safety devices known to man.

Over the past 140 years they have had a better than 99% success rate in controlling fires around the world. More than 70 million sprinkler heads are installed worldwide each year.

The ultimate in fire protection – acts immediately to control or extinguish the fire

Each year thousands die in fires globally in unprotected buildings, but no one has died by fire in a building fully protected by sprinklers. Fire alarms and smoke detectors can only warn of a fire starting and depend on someone calling the Fire Brigade. Fire Sprinklers not only warn of a fire they also act immediately to control it - even if no one is present. This greatly reduces damage and extends the time available for people to escape or be rescued.

Efficient and reliable

Fire Sprinklers are very reliable. Records show that the chance of a faulty head is about 1:16,000,000 (one in sixteen million). You have more chance of winning the Lottery! Each sprinkler is individually triggered directly by the heat of a fire, and the system will probably have gained control of the fire long before the Fire Brigade is even notified of the fire. Only the sprinkler directly affected by the fire operates (NOT all of them).

A disturbing fact:

Currently only 150 out of the 28,000 schools in the UK have a fire sprinkler system fitted. Does yours?