

# Tenants Guide to Fire Sprinklers

## 1.0: Introduction

- Fire sprinkler systems are designed to save lives and prevent injuries to both the building occupants and the emergency services from fire and smoke.
- Fire sprinklers are an important addition to the fire detection systems already fitted in your home.
- Fire sprinklers prevent a fire from taking hold and spreading to other rooms preventing extensive damage to your home.

## 2.0: The Fire Sprinkler System Within Your Home

- Fire sprinklers operate by releasing a spray of water to suppress or extinguish a fire as soon as the heat reaches a certain temperature.
- A series of sprinkler heads are fitted within the following rooms of your home:
  - Hallway
  - Kitchen
  - Living Room
  - Bedroom
- The heads themselves are concealed beneath a small circular flat plate and are located at high level around the perimeter of each room.
- To ensure that your fire sprinkler system will operate effectively when it is needed you **MUST NOT:**
  - × **Paint over the sprinkler head locations.**
  - × **Hang any items in front of the heads e.g. pictures**
  - × **Try to remove the covers or intentionally damage the system in any way.**
- If you are concerned that a sprinkler head may have been accidentally damaged then you should immediately report this to Leicester City Council.



**Fire Sprinkler Heads Located within Your Home**

### 3.0: In The Event Of A Fire

- In the event of a fire you should evacuate following the 'Block Evacuation Strategy' which was explained to you on occupation by Leicester City Council's Tenancy Management Team.
- At the source of the fire when the temperature reaches between 57 and 68 degrees centigrade, the nearest circular plate(s), in the immediate vicinity of the fire will detach and the sprinkler head will activate. Once activated a signal will be sent automatically via the fire alarm system and the Fire Service will attend.
- The sprinkler head activated will then intensively spray droplets of water onto the areas in the vicinity of the sprinkler. This continuous spray of water will be enough to contain or extinguish the fire.

### 4.0: Sprinkler Myths

- Fire sprinklers will not operate accidentally. They will not go off in response to the heat from cooking, to steam from a bathroom or a shower, and they will not go off if you burn the toast!
- If there is a fire, the only sprinklers to go off will be those immediately close to the fire (normally only one sprinkler head). A fire will not set off all the sprinkler heads in a home. What you may have seen in films is wrong!
- Water from a sprinkler will only cause minor damage, requiring some furniture and carpets to be dried out, and probably some redecoration of any walls doused in water.
- Damage from a fire (in the absence of sprinklers) would be much more extensive and serious, and life-threatening. The Fire Service would use much more water to extinguish a home fire than a sprinkler, and so the water damage from the Fire Service would be much more serious.

## 5.0 What Else Should I Do To Reduce The Risk Of Fire?

### Six steps to fire safety in the home:

**PLAN** – plan your easiest escape route

**TEST** – ensure smoke alarms are tested regularly

**CHECK** – check all appliances before going to bed or leaving the home

**CARE** – when cooking, never leave chip pans (or similar appliances) unattended

**CLOSE** – close all doors, especially at night

**CALL** – get out and call 999 at the first sign of fire