



Do my fire sprinklers need to be tested?

Since your sprinkler system's sprinklers are not used on a frequent basis similar to a plumbing or electrical system, it is important that they be tested to ensure they will be ready to perform in the event they are needed. The testing frequency varies depending on the sprinkler's style and environment. This frequency is outlined in the NFPA-25 code (Standard for the Inspection, testing, and maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems). Below are the sprinkler types and correlating testing schedules:

Sprinklers that have been in service for 50 years shall be replaced or tested. Test Procedures shall be repeated at 10-year intervals (5.3.1.1.1.1).

Sprinklers manufactured prior to 1920 shall be replaced (5.3.1.1.1.2).

Wet sprinklers using fast response elements that have been in service for 20 years shall be replaced or tested. Test Procedures shall be repeated at 10-year intervals (5.3.1.1.1.3).

Solder link sprinklers with extra high (325°F) or greater shall be replaced or tested every 5 years (5.3.1.1.1.4)

Dry sprinklers that have been in service for ten years shall be replaced or tested. Test Procedures shall be repeated at 10-year intervals (5.3.1.1.1.6)

Sprinklers installed in areas that are subject to harsh environments (corrosive atmospheres or water supplies) shall be tested or replaced every 5 years (5.3.1.1.2).

A representative sample of sprinklers for testing shall consist of a minimum of four sprinklers or one percent of the number of sprinklers per individual sprinkler sample, whichever is greater (5.3.1.2).

If the sprinkler date of installation cannot be confirmed, the start date for the in-service time period will be the sprinkler's manufacture date (5.3.1).

In order to have your sprinklers tested, an assessment will be required to find the quantity and date of each style sprinkler in service at your property. From these findings, the correct number of samples can be removed to be sent to an approved laboratory for testing. The testing conducted is destructive, and all samples removed will require replacement. Once the testing has concluded, a report will be generated by the testing laboratory and provided to the property owner. Where one sprinkler within a representative sample fails to meet the test requirement, all sprinklers within the area represented by that sample shall be replaced (5.3.1.3).