

FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS



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Installation and/or changes to fire sprinkler systems require that plans be submitted by a State-licensed fire protection contractor and a permit obtained prior to starting work. Penalties for non-compliance with this requirement will entail triple or quadruple permitting fees. Normal plan review time is 7-10 working days. Make sure you plan ahead and get your plans in early.

The Arlington Fire Department amendments to the 2009 International Fire Code are available on the City of Arlington web site www.ci.arlington.tx.us/fire. Some of the local requirements regarding fire sprinkler systems are outlined below:

1. All fire sprinkler systems shall be designed with a 10 psi safety factor.
2. Automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be installed throughout all self-service storage facilities.

Exception: One-story self-service storage facilities that have no interior corridors, with a one-hour fire barrier separation wall installed between every storage compartment.

3. Automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be installed throughout all buildings over 2 stories.
4. Any building exceeding 12,000 sq. ft. that has a clear height in excess of 12 feet, making it possible to be used for storage in excess of 12 feet, shall be considered to be high-piled storage and shall comply with Chapter 23 of the 2009 International Fire Code, including a fire sprinkler system. When a specific product cannot be identified, a fire protection system shall be installed as for Class IV commodities, to the maximum pile height.

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5. Automatic fire sprinkler systems in Group R occupancies of four stories or less may be hydraulically calculated within the dwelling units in accordance with NFPA 13R and as amended by this code. Sprinkler protection shall be provided throughout, including the means of egress, patios, bathrooms, closets, balconies and attics.
6. Fire Department connections shall be 4" Storz connections as outlined in amended section 903.3.7.
7. All sprinkler systems consisting of more than 20 heads shall be monitored by a UL Listed Central Station.
8. Sprinkler and Standpipe system water-flow detectors shall be provided for each floor tap to the sprinkler system and shall cause an alarm upon detection of water flow.

