

# Know Your FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM

## KNOW YOUR SYSTEM'S WATER CONTROLS

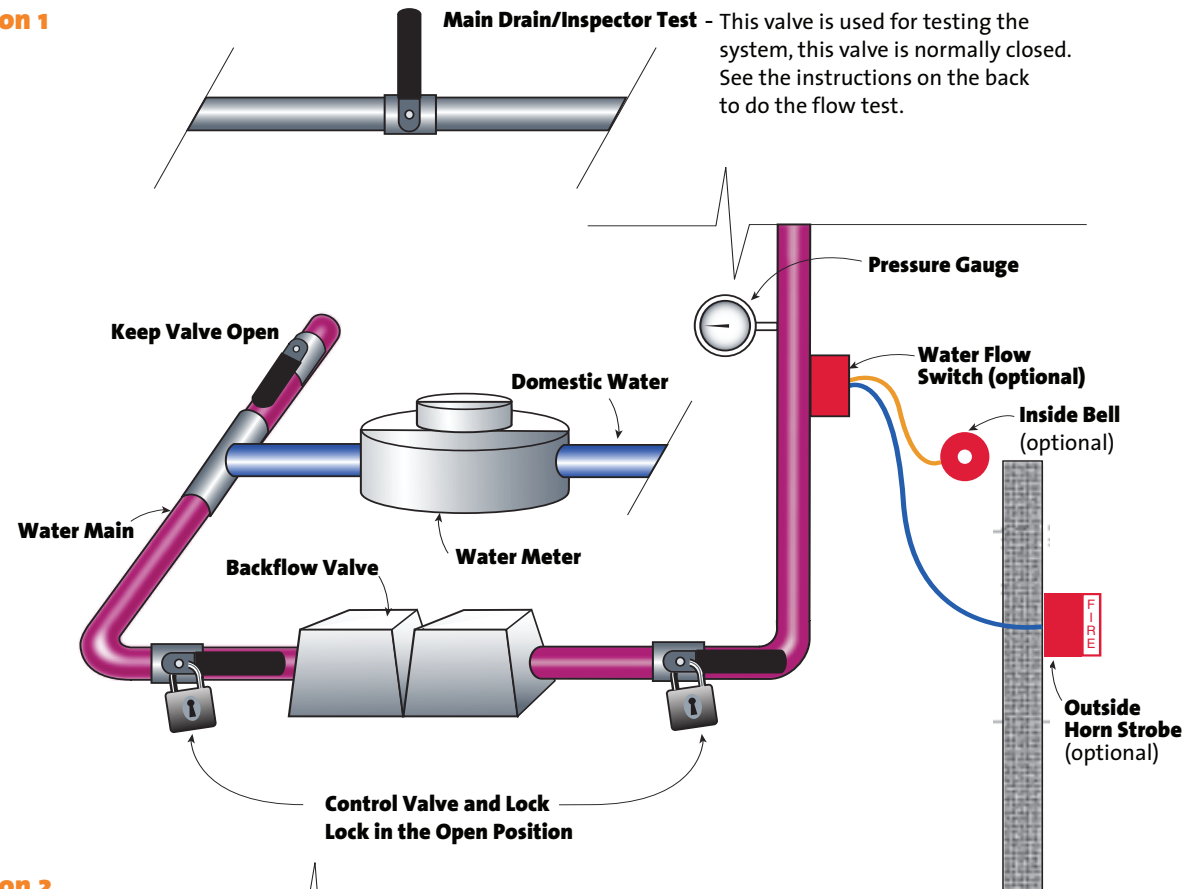
Your home has a built-in fire sprinkler system. If you have a fire, the sprinklers will put it out or control it with water. The system protects your family and home from the dangers of fire, 24 hours a day.

In most cases, sprinkler systems are supplied by the **Water Main**, where water comes into a home. The fire sprinkler system connects to the water main. In Illinois the water flows through a **Backflow Valve**. Typically, a Double-Check Backflow Valve (DC) is required. For systems with anti-freeze, Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) check valves are required. A main water control valve is on the pipe that supplies the sprinkler system. This **Control Valve** turns the water flow on and off. Your system may have additional or different features.

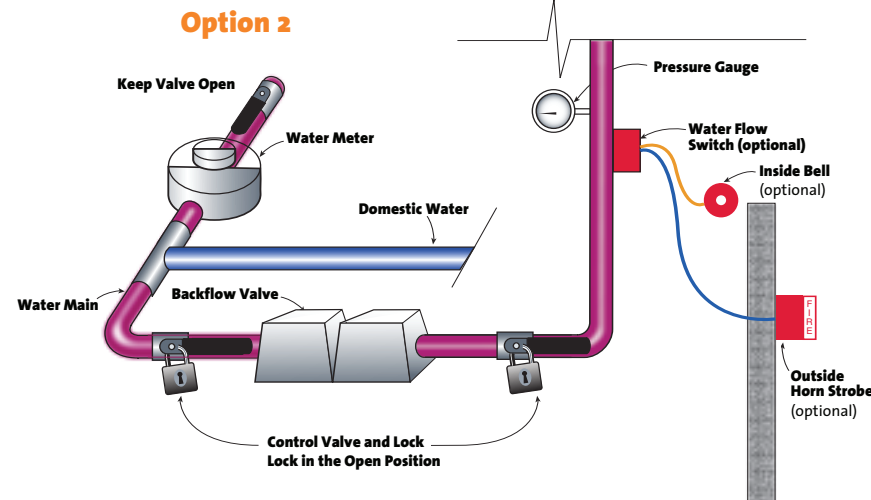
**Turning off the water to your home will also turn off the water to your fire sprinkler system.**

Contact your sprinkler contractor if you have questions.

Option 1



Option 2



In order to fully protect your drinking water, the Illinois Plumbing Code requires the backflow valve be tested annually by a licensed plumber that has been certified as a Cross-Connection Control Device Inspector.

# KEEP YOUR FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM WORKING THE WAY IT SHOULD

## CONTROL VALVES MUST BE OPEN OR TURNED ON.

The control is **OPEN** when it is in line with the pipe.

The control is **CLOSED** (“turned off”) when it makes a corner to the pipe.

Use a padlock to keep the valve **LOCKED OPEN**.

Tape the padlock key to the pipes or a wall nearby so you can find it when you need it.

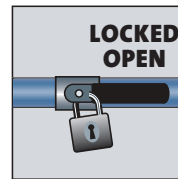
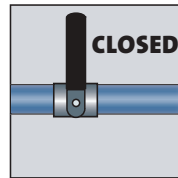
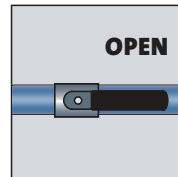
**Keep the area around your water controls clear.**

Do not store anything within 1 foot (30 cm) of your water controls.

**If sprinkler water control valves are ever turned “off”, be sure to turn them back on.**

The water needs to be turned on so the sprinklers can work to protect you from a fire.

## WATER CONTROLS



## PROTECT YOUR FIRE SPRINKLERS.

**Make sure nothing is blocking your sprinklers.**

Keep pictures and large furniture away from sprinklers on walls.

Hang lamps and plants away from ceiling sprinklers.

**Do not hang anything on sprinklers or pipes.**

Even lightweight items can damage sprinklers.

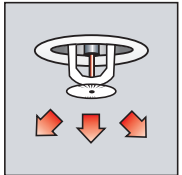
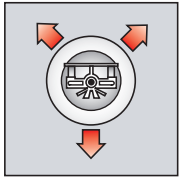
Keep paint away from sprinklers or sprinkler covers.

While doing messy work, such as painting, cover the sprinklers with plastic. Remove the plastic as soon as you are finished.

Be careful when you are moving large or tall items.

Don't bump sprinklers or exposed pipes. Teach children not to touch or play with sprinklers.

## SPRINKLERS NEED SPACE



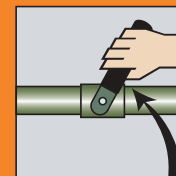
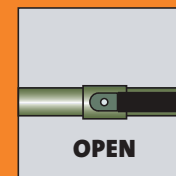
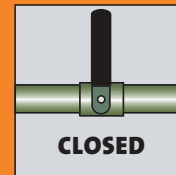
## DO A WATER FLOW TEST ABOUT ONCE A YEAR.

You can do this yourself (see below). Or your sprinkler contractor can do it for you.

### To do a water flow test:

1. Find your water flow test control valve. It may be labeled **main drain**, **inspector test** or **test and drain**.
2. Slowly turn the control valve on (bring the valve in line with the pipe).
3. This will start water running. Let the water run for about 60 seconds. If your system has an alarm you will hear it.
4. Slowly turn the control valve off (the valve will make a corner to the pipe).
5. Write down the date you tested your water flow switch.
6. If your sprinklers are connected to a central alarm, inform the fire department that you are going to do a test.

## FLOW TEST



**Write down the date of each test here:**

---



---



---



**Northern Illinois  
Fire Sprinkler  
Advisory Board**

[www.firesprinklerassoc.org](http://www.firesprinklerassoc.org)



[www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)



[www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org)