



*For Maintenance  
and Custodians*



## Fire Sprinklers

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Fire sprinkler systems are designed to detect, control and suppress fires and increase the amount of time available to exit a building.

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Fire sprinkler systems are designed to provide full protection by overlapping the sprinkler heads' radius of spray coverage. This overlapping coverage can be rendered ineffective however if materials are stacked so high that they block the sprinkler's effective range. Safety and fire standards require that there be a minimum of 18 inches of clearance between the bottom of the sprinkler head and any stored materials.

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In addition, there should never be anything hanging on the sprinkler pipes, sprinklers or the sprinkler guard. Such items as classroom decorations can block or obstruct the sprinkler system's full coverage.

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The fire sprinkler system should also be inspected, tested and maintained annually to ensure that the sprinklers function properly.

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*An example of materials stored on shelving that is too high, obstructing the sprinkler head and giving the sprinkler limited coverage. Stacked materials should never be higher than 18 inches below the sprinkler head.*

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