

1 Installation of domestic fire sprinklers

Domestic fire sprinklers are increasing being used in the UK in both new and existing homes to reduce loss of life and injury, as well as property damage, as a result of a fire. However, it is essential that the plumbing arrangements of the sprinkler system are installed correctly to ensure they will function when required, and to prevent cross contamination with the drinking water supply. Any domestic sprinkler system fitted in our area of supply must meet the following specification.

Company pipework and metering specifications

For residential properties, our policy is to install meters which are no larger than 25mm. If a sprinkler system is being installed we will install a particular type of 25mm meter which will allow a flow rate of up to 120 litres per minute (lpm). Our preferred location for water meters is at the property boundary.

The communication pipe, which connects the water main to the principal stopcock, is our responsibility. If specifically requested in relation to the installation of a sprinkler system, we will install a 32mm polyethylene communication pipe. We will provide a quotation for this work on request.

The remaining pipework downstream of the principal stopcock is the responsibility of the property owner, and is referred to as the supply pipe. There is no restriction on the size of the supply pipe, although it needs to be appropriate for the anticipated consumption in the property. All pipework downstream of the principal stopcock must comply with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

Some water supplies are shared by a number of properties, known as a common supply. If a sprinkler system is to be installed at a property which has a common supply we will require that a new and separate supply is laid.

Water supply pressure

We do not guarantee any pressure greater than the statutory minimum of 10m at the boundary of the property. However, we can provide an indication of the typical operating pressure in the vicinity of the property on request. It will be for the installer to determine whether this is adequate and suitable. Pressure can vary dependent upon the time of day and year.

We cannot guarantee an uninterrupted water supply. From time to time mains are depressurised for essential maintenance or to repair bursts. If there is any doubt concerning the reliability of the mains water supply for the operation of the sprinkler system, then a dedicated storage and pump system should be installed.

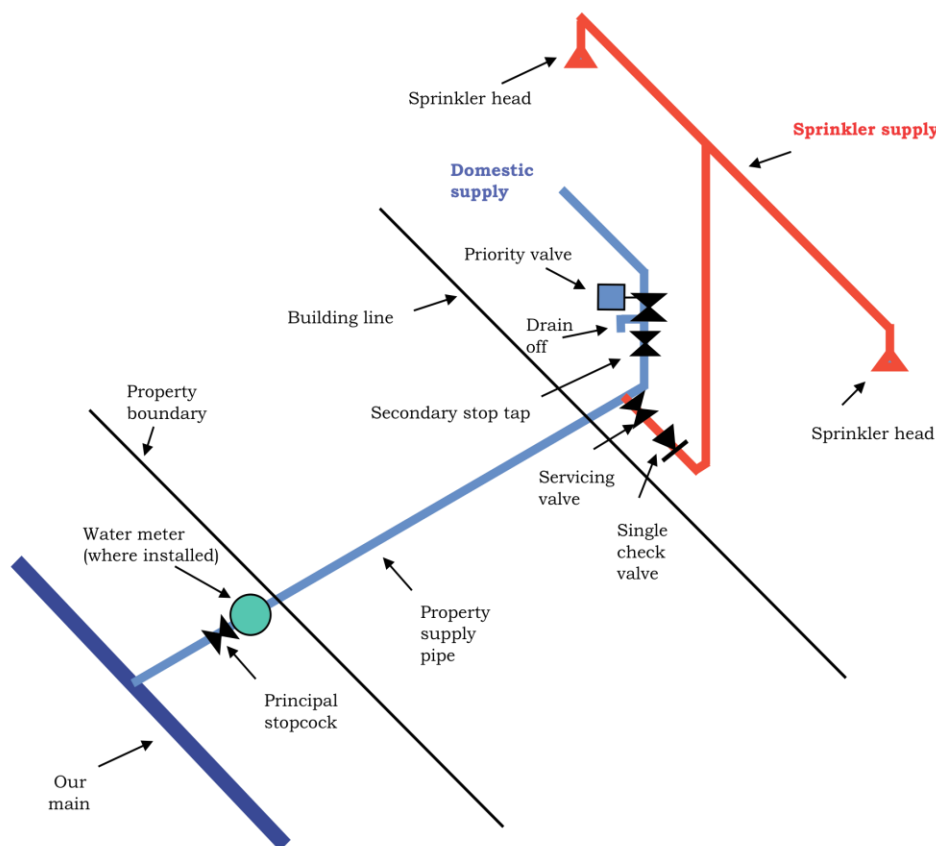
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Sprinkler supply specification

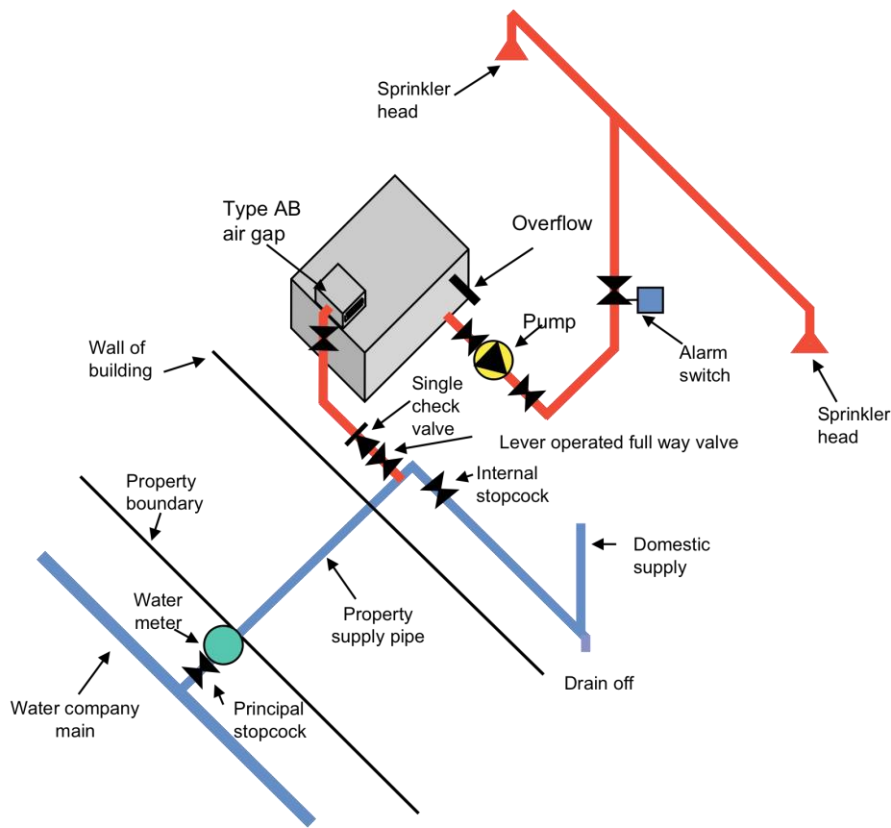
A direct feed sprinkler system should be connected into the domestic supply as shown below. The separate specification for storage and pump systems is available on request. All systems are subject to an inspection by us for compliance with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

The connection to the sprinkler supply must be made within the property and the servicing valve made accessible. A single check valve must be installed on the sprinkler supply to prevent backflow of stagnant water contaminating the domestic supply. The pipe should be white with red bands so it can be easily distinguished from any other pipework. No other fittings should be connected to this supply other than the valves and sprinkler heads.

Specification for storage and pump system at a domestic premises with externally sited meter



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Sprinkler supply specification – storage and pumped systems

A sprinkler system comprising dedicated storage and pumps should be connected into the domestic supply as shown below. A separate specification for direct feed systems is available on request. All systems are subject to an inspection by us for compliance with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

The connection to the sprinkler supply should be made within the property and the servicing valve must be accessible. A single check valve must be installed on the sprinkler supply to prevent backflow of stagnant water contaminating the domestic supply. The pipe should be white with red bands so it can be easily distinguished from any other pipework. No other fittings should be connected to this supply other than the valves and sprinkler heads