



**BULLETIN**

**CARE AND HANDLING OF SPRINKLERS**

**SPRINKLERS ARE FRAGILE – HANDLE WITH CARE!**

**General Handling and Storage:**

- Store sprinklers in a cool, dry place.
- Protect sprinklers during storage, transport, handling, and after installation.
- Use the original shipping containers. **DO NOT** place sprinklers loose in boxes, bins, or buckets.
- Keep sprinklers separated at all times. **DO NOT** allow metal parts to contact sprinkler operating elements.

**For Pre-Assembled Drops:**

- Protect sprinklers during handling and after installation.
- For recessed assemblies, use the protective sprinkler cap (Viking Part Number 10364).

**Sprinklers with Protective Shields or Caps:**

- **DO NOT** remove shields or caps until after sprinkler installation and there no longer is potential for mechanical damage to the sprinkler operating elements.
- **Sprinkler shields or caps MUST be removed BEFORE placing the system in service!**
- Remove the sprinkler shield by carefully pulling it apart where it is snapped together.
- Remove the cap by turning it slightly and pulling it off the sprinkler.

**Sprinkler Installation:**

- **DO NOT** use the sprinkler deflector or operating element to start or thread the sprinkler into a fitting.
- **Use only the designated sprinkler head wrench!** Refer to the current sprinkler technical data page to determine the correct wrench for the model of sprinkler used.
- **DO NOT** install sprinklers onto piping at the floor level.
- Install sprinklers after the piping is in place to prevent mechanical damage.
- **Take care not to over-tighten the sprinkler or damage its operating parts!**
- **DO NOT** allow impacts such as hammer blows directly to sprinklers or to fittings, pipe, or couplings in close proximity to sprinklers. Sprinklers can be damaged from direct or indirect impacts.
- **DO NOT** attempt to remove drywall, paint, etc., from sprinklers.



**CORRECT**  
(original container used)



**INCORRECT!**  
(sprinklers placed loose in box)



**CORRECT**  
(sprinklers protected with caps)



**INCORRECT!**  
(protective caps not used)



**CORRECT**  
(piping is in place at the ceiling)



**INCORRECT!**  
(sprinkler at floor level)



**CORRECT**  
(special installation wrenches)



**INCORRECT!**  
(designated wrench not used)

**WARNING:** Any sprinkler with a loss of liquid from the glass bulb or damage to the fusible element should be destroyed. Never install sprinklers that have been dropped, damaged, or exposed to temperatures exceeding the maximum ambient temperature allowed. Sprinklers that have been painted in the field must be replaced per NFPA 13. Protect sprinklers from paint and paint overspray in accordance with the installation standards. Do not clean sprinklers with soap and water, ammonia, or any other cleaning fluid. Do not use adhesives or solvents on sprinklers or their operating elements.

Refer to the appropriate technical data page for complete care, handling, and installation instructions. Viking data pages and installation instructions are included with each full box shipment from Viking or Viking distributors. This information is also available on the Web site at [www.vikinggroupinc.com](http://www.vikinggroupinc.com).



## BULLETIN

PROTECTIVE SPRINKLER  
SHIELDS & CAPS

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### PROTECTIVE SPRINKLER SHIELDS AND CAPS

Many Viking sprinklers are available with a plastic protective cap or shield temporarily covering the operating elements. The snap-on shields and caps are factory installed and are intended to help protect the operating elements from mechanical damage during shipping, storage, and installation. NOTE: It is still necessary to follow the care and handling instructions on the appropriate sprinkler technical data sheets\* when installing sprinklers with bulb shields or caps.

#### WHEN TO REMOVE THE SHIELDS AND CAPS:

NOTE: SHIELDS AND CAPS MUST BE REMOVED FROM SPRINKLERS BEFORE PLACING THE SYSTEM IN SERVICE!

Remove the shield or cap from the sprinkler only after checking all of the following:

- The sprinkler has been installed\*.
- The wall or ceiling finish work is completed where the sprinkler is installed and there no longer is a potential for mechanical damage to the sprinkler operating elements.

**SHIELDS AND CAPS MUST BE REMOVED FROM SPRINKLERS BEFORE PLACING THE SYSTEM IN SERVICE!**



**Figure 1:** Sprinkler shield being removed from a pendent sprinkler.



**Figure 2:** Sprinkler cap being removed from a pendent sprinkler.



**Figure 3:** Sprinkler cap being removed from an upright sprinkler.

#### HOW TO REMOVE SHIELDS AND CAPS:

No tools are necessary to remove the shields or caps from sprinklers. DO NOT use any sharp objects to remove them! **Take care not to cause mechanical damage to sprinklers when removing the shields or caps.** When removing caps from fusible element sprinklers, use care to prevent dislodging ejector springs or damaging fusible elements. NOTE: Squeezing the sprinkler cap excessively could damage sprinkler fusible elements.

- To remove the shield, simply pull the ends of the shield apart where it is snapped together. Refer to Figure 1.
- To remove the cap, turn it slightly and pull it off the sprinkler. Refer to Figures 2 and 3.

**NOTE:** Refer to the current sprinkler technical data page to determine the correct sprinkler wrench for the model of sprinkler used.

**Warning:** Never install sprinklers that have been dropped, damaged, or exposed to temperatures in excess of the maximum ambient temperature allowed.

\* Refer to the appropriate current technical data pages for complete care, handling, and installation instructions. Data pages are included with each shipment from Viking or Viking distributors. They can also be found in your Viking technical data book and on the Web site at [www.vikinggroupinc.com](http://www.vikinggroupinc.com).

Viking Technical Data may be found on  
The Viking Corporation's Web site at  
<http://www.vikinggroupinc.com>.  
The Web site may include a more recent  
edition of this Technical Data Page.