



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

There are different types of fire extinguishers available. To select the proper fire extinguisher, you need to know the different classifications of fires extinguishers.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASSIFICATIONS

A fire extinguisher is rated based upon the size and type of fires it can extinguish. For example, a B:C rated fire extinguisher is optimal in fighting fires that involve flammable liquids and electrical fires. An A:B:C rated fire extinguisher is optimal in fighting fires that involve paper, flammable liquids and electrical fires

Choose a fire extinguisher with a rating that best suits your needs by looking for these icons:

A **Class A rating (Ordinary Combustibles):** The agent/powder is suitable for fighting small fires involving wood, paper, cloth and some plastics.

B **Class B rating (Flammable Liquids):** The agent/powder is suitable for fighting small fires involving oil, gasoline, kerosene, and other flammable liquids.

C **Class C rating (Electrical Equipment):** The agent/powder is suitable for fighting small fires in "live" electrical equipment.

4-A:60B:C

- Effective on Class C fires
 - Effective on Class B fires
 - Able to extinguish 150 sq. ft of burning liquid
 - Effective on Class A fires
- The strength of the extinguisher is measured in its ability to extinguish crib and panel fires of a prescribed size; generally a 4-A rating has 4 times the extinguishing ability of the 1-A rated extinguisher.

TYPES OF EXTINGUISHERS

- WATER & FOAM**
Water Extinguishers are for Class A fires only. Foam Extinguishers can be used on Class A & Class B fires.



- CARBON DIOXIDE**
Carbon Dioxide Extinguishers extinguish the fire by taking away the oxygen and also by removing the heat with a very cold discharge. Carbon Dioxide Extinguishers can be used on Class B & C fires. They are usually ineffective on Class A fires.



DRY CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHERS

The **most common** type of extinguisher used in homes and businesses is the Multi-purpose Dry Chemical Extinguisher. **These extinguishers are effective on Class A, B, and C fires.**



LOCATION

You should have one fire extinguisher on each floor of your home. The most important places to have a fire extinguisher are the kitchen and garage.

Fire Extinguishers are either Non-rechargeable or Rechargeable

Non-rechargeable fire extinguishers are intended for one time use only. If you use your fire extinguisher even once, you must replace it. Never test a fire extinguisher by using it.

Rechargeable fire extinguishers are intended to be recharged once it is used, or when it loses pressure. Once a year, fire extinguishers should be serviced by a certified fire equipment dealer in accordance with the service manual identified on the fire extinguisher label. This fire extinguisher must also be refilled by a certified fire equipment dealer regardless of how much of the contents were used.





**THE RULES FOR
FIGHTING FIRES**

Just remember the three A's -

- ◆ **ACTIVATE** the building alarm system or notify the fire department by calling 911. Or, have someone else do this for you.
- ◆ **ASSIST** any persons in immediate danger, or those incapable on their own, to exit the building, without risk to yourself.
- ◆ Only after these two are completed, should you **ATTEMPT** to extinguish the fire.

Before deciding to fight a fire, be certain that—

- ⇒ The fire is small and not spreading. A fire can double in size within two or three minutes.
- ⇒ You have the proper extinguisher for what is burning.
- ⇒ The fire won't block your exit before you can control it. A good way is to ensure this is to keep the exit at your back.
- ⇒ You know that your fire extinguisher works. Inspect extinguishers once a month for dents, leaks, or other signs of damage. Assure that the pressure is at the recommended level. On extinguishers equipped with a gauge, the needle should be in the green zone—not too high, not too low.
- ⇒ You know how to use your extinguisher. There's not enough time to read the instructions when a fire occurs.

How to fight a fire safely -

- **Always** stand with an exit to your back.
- Stand 6 to 8 feet away from the fire, moving closer once the fire starts to diminish.
- Use a sweeping motion and aim at the base of the fire.
- If possible, use a "buddy system" to have someone back you up or call for help if something goes wrong.
- Be sure to watch the area for awhile to ensure it doesn't re-ignite, but **DO NOT** stay in a smoke filled room.

NEVER FIGHT A FIRE IF:

- The fire is spreading rapidly. Only use a fire extinguisher when the fire is in it's early stages.
- If the fire is spreading quickly, evacuate and call the fire department.
- There is too much smoke or you are at risk for inhaling smoke. Seven out of ten fire related deaths occur from breathing poisonous gases produced by the fire.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE

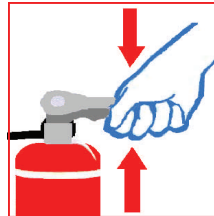
When it IS time to use a fire extinguisher on a fire, just remember PASS!



PULL the pin.



AIM the nozzle or hose at the base of the fire from the recommended safe distance (6 to 8 feet).



SQUEEZE the operating lever to discharge the fire extinguishing agent.



SWEEP the nozzle or hose from side to side until the fire is out. Continue to discharge the agent until the extinguisher is empty. Watch the area in case of re-ignition.

