

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Read the instructions on your extinguisher for use and application.

Fix a picture in your mind that will fit the instructions on the extinguisher. If there's a fire, get everyone outside, ask a member of your family to call the Fire Department from a neighbour's house. Then fight a small fire only. If the fire gets large, get out. Close doors to slow the fire spread.

THIS IS YOUR ABCD'S OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A fire extinguisher is a storage container for an agent like water or chemicals. It is designed to put out a small fire, not a big one. Extinguishers are labeled ABC or D. Make sure you use the right extinguisher to put out a small fire.

ABC

A multi-purpose dry chemical labeled ABC puts out most types of fires - wood, paper, cloth, flammable liquid, and electrical fires. If you buy more than one, you might want to get a BC for the kitchen, an A for the living room, and an ABC for the basement and garage.

1. **Ordinary Combustibles** - Fires in paper, wood, drapes and upholstery require a Class A extinguisher.
2. **Flammable and Combustible Liquids** - Fires in fuel oil, gasoline, paint, grease in a frying pan, solvents, and other flammable liquids require a Class B extinguisher.
3. **Electrical Equipment** - Fires started in wiring, overheated fuse boxes, conductors, and other electrical sources require a Class C extinguisher.
4. **Metals** - Certain metals such as magnesium and sodium require special dry powder Class D extinguisher.

BUYING AND MAINTAINING AN EXTINGUISHER.

1. Extinguishers come in dry chemical, foam, carbon dioxide, water, or Halon types. Whatever type you buy, it should be labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
2. The higher the number rating on the extinguisher the more fire it puts out. High rated extinguishers are often (not always) the heavier models. Make sure you can hold and operate the one you buy for home or office use.
3. Ask your dealer how to have your extinguisher serviced and inspected. Recharge it after ANY use. A partially used extinguisher might as well be empty.
4. Extinguishers should be installed near an escape route and away from potential fire hazards.

LEARN HOW TO PASS:

1. **Pull** the pin. Some units require the releasing of a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, inversion, or other motion.
2. **Aim** the extinguisher nozzle (horn) at the base of the fire.
3. **Squeeze** or press the handle.
4. **Sweep** from side to side at the base of the fire and discharge the contents of the extinguisher.

Foam and water extinguishers require slightly different action. Read the instructions.