



Fire Extinguishers

Choosing and Using Portable Fire Extinguishers

A fire extinguisher is an absolute necessity in any home or office. While there's a good chance that the extinguisher will never be used to fight a fire, it could end up saving your property and even your life.

Types of Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are rated by the type of fire they can put out. It is important to choose the proper fire extinguisher for each fire. Fire extinguishers are labeled with letters and/or pictures to indicate the type of fire on which the extinguisher is effective.

Ordinary Combustibles Fire



A

Paper, wood, plastics, fabric, rubber, trash

Flammable Liquids Fire



B

Gasoline, oil, grease, some paints & solvents

Electrical Fire



C

Energized electrical equipment; appliances, computers, wiring

A combination **ABC Dry Chemical** extinguisher can be used on these three types of fire, and is a good choice for home and office use.

Remember the **PASS** Word

There are four basic steps to using a fire extinguisher.

PULL



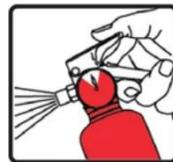
Set the extinguisher down. Hold it by the tank (pressure on the handle could pinch the pin). Pull the pin straight out.

AIM



Start about 6-8 feet back from the fire. Aim at the base of the fire, at what is burning, not the flames.

SQUEEZE



Squeeze the lever on the fire extinguisher.

SWEEP



Sweep from side to side, advancing toward the fire slowly, until the fire is out.

GET OUT

If the fire gets bigger, close any doors and evacuate.

Be Prepared

Training and practice are the best ways to prepare for emergencies. Make certain you know the PASS system and understand how to safely use a fire extinguisher before you ever need one.

- ✓ Don't force yourself to fight a fire that makes you uncomfortable or puts you at risk.
- ✓ Always make certain 911 has been called before using an extinguisher.
- ✓ Fire extinguishers are small quick fixes. If you are unable to put out the fire with one extinguisher, leave and close the door behind you.
- ✓ A fire involving any portion of the building structure, a wall or ceiling, is too big for an extinguisher. Get out!
- ✓ While using a fire extinguisher, stay low. The smoke is filled with carbon monoxide and many other toxic gasses.
- ✓ Don't let the fire come between you and your exit. Keep the fire in front of you and your back to the exit.
- ✓ Keep fire extinguishers throughout your home. They are best placed between a probable fire source and an exit.
- ✓ Check them twice a year.