CLASSES
OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

There are three classes of fire extinguishers that are common for homes. Each is designed to put out differents kinds of fires.

A — For use with ordinary materials like cloth, wood and paper

B — For use with combustible and flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil and oil-based paints

C — For use with electrical equipment like appliances, tools or other equipment that is plugged into an outlet

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CHOOSING
A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

There are multipurpose fire extinguishers that might be labeled 'B-C" or 'A-B-C" that can be used on most types of home fires

A — Always look for the "UL Listed" or "ULC Listed" label on a fire extinguisher to ensure it is certified for use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory

A — Fire extinguishers vary in size and weight select the largest fire extinguisher that you can safely and comfortably operate

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HOW TO USE
A FIRE EXTINGUISHER: PASS

P — PULL THE PIN at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.

A — AIM at the base of the fire and not at the flames. You must extinguish the fuel to the fire. Start back 20 feet from the fire.

S — SQUEEZE the lever. This will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.

S — SWEEP from side to side. Using a sweeping motion, move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out.

PULL THE PIN

AIM AT BASE OF FIRE

SQUEEZE THE LEVER

SWEEP SIDE TO SIDE

USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER
IF YOU CAN ANSWER "YES" TO THE FOLLOWING:

Has someone called the fire department?

Have I alerted others in the building that there is a fire?

Am I physically able to use a fire extinguisher?

Is the fire small and contained in a single object or to a surface (like a pan or a wastebasket)?

Am I safe from the fire's toxic smoke?

Do I have a clear escape route?

IF YOU'RE UNSURE CALL 9-1-1 AND LEAVE IT TO THE FIRE PROFESSIONALS.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER
PROPER CARE AND USE

Access - Easy to reach in an emergency.

Pressure level - Many extinguishers show when pressure is too high too low.

Working parts - Make sure the can, hoses, and nozzles are not damaged, dented or rusted.

Cleanliness - Remove any dust, oil or grease that might be on the outside.

Guidelines and instructions - Some extinguishers need to be shaken monthly; others need to be pressure tested every few years.

WET CHEMICAL

EXTINGUISHER
LOCATION

Place your fire extinguisher so they are never more than 75 feet away. This way the maximum round-trip distance to put out a fire would be 150 feet 75 feet to retrieve the extinguisher and 75 feet to return to the location of the fire.

When locating fire extinguishers, also think about walls, obstructions, and other features that might limit movement.

75 FEET
MAXIMUM DISTANCE

EXTINGUISHER
PLACEMENT

Locate extinguishers along normal paths of travel. You do not want to be trapped by a fire when trying to get an extinguisher.

Extinguishers should be installed at least 4 inches off the ground up to a maximum of 5ft. For extinguishers heavier than 40 lbs, they should be only up to 3 ft 6 inches off the ground.

THE FIRE TRIANGLE

The fire triangle is composed of oxygen, heat, and fuel. If any of these elements are removed, a fire can be prevented or extinguished. Therefore, the goal of every type of extinguisher is to eliminate one or more of these 3 elements.

OXYGEN

FUEL

HEAT