

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

CHOOSING THEM AND USING THEM

WHEN TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Ask yourself: Have I alerted others in the building that there is a fire? Has someone called the fire department? Am I physically able to use a fire extinguisher? Is the fire small and contained to 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, leave and call 9-1-1.

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.

CHOOSING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

There are multipurpose fire extinguishers labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C" that can be used on most types of home fires. Always look for the "UL Listed" or "ULC Listed" label to ensure it is certified for use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Fire extinguishers vary in size and weight, select the largest fire extinguisher that you can safely and comfortably operate.

YOUR DEFENSE AGAINST DISASTER.





**APPROXIMATELY
371,000
RESIDENTIAL
FIRES ARE PUT
OUT EACH
YEAR BY
EXTINGUISHERS.**

CLASSES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Each class is designed to put out different 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.

EXTINGUISHER LOCATION

Place your fire extinguishers so they are never more than 75 feet away. This way the maximum round-trip distance to put out a fire is 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.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT
YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT.**