

Choosing a Fire Extinguisher

There are different types of fire extinguishers available. Many fire extinguishers are designed for different areas of your home. For example, you will find an extinguisher designated for the “kitchen” or a fire extinguisher designated for the “garage”. A fire extinguisher should be purchased based on the area that you would like to place it in and your overall fire fighting need. A fire extinguisher is designated only to fight small fires. If a fire starts to burn out of control, it is not safe to try to extinguish it yourself. Call for help immediately.

Fire extinguishers are grouped into classes based on the types of materials the fire extinguishing agents are most effective on, as well as the size of fire that the fire extinguisher is rated to extinguish (as set by UL).

Material and Area Ratings

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 suites your needs by looking for these icons.



Class A rating: The agent/powder is suitable for fighting small fires involving wood, paper, cloth, rubber, and some plastics.



Class B rating: The agent/powder is suitable for fighting small fires involving oil, gasoline, kerosene, and other flammable liquids



Class C rating: The agent/powder is suitable for fighting small fires in “live” electrical equipment.

Know How To Use Your Fire Extinguisher

Its easy to use a fire extinguisher. Many believe that when used, a fire extinguisher will be difficult to handle or have a heavy “kick” back effect. Neither is true. If you ever have the need to fight a small fire, remember the P.A.S.S. system.

REMEMBER P.A.S.S. WHEN USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER



Pull the pin to unlock the operating lever.



Point the fire extinguisher at the base of the fire and stand back 10 ft.



Squeeze and hold the trigger to discharge the powder or “agent”.

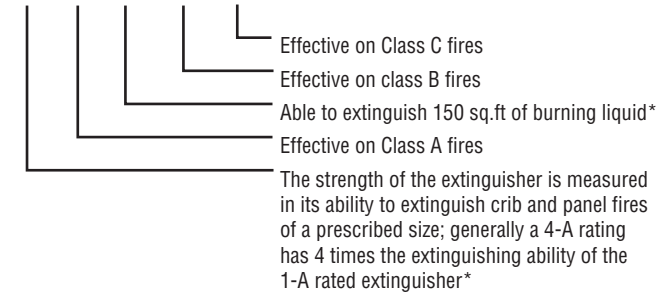


Sweep from side to side, always aiming at the base of the fire.

How to Read Fire Extinguisher Ratings

On the fire extinguisher canister, a fire extinguisher rating may read 4-A:60B:C. This means:

4-A:60B:C



* See www.ul.com for more information or fire extinguisher ratings

There are two types of Fire Extinguishers:

• Non-rechargeable fire extinguishers

Intended for one time use only. If you use your fire extinguisher even once, you must replace it. It will not be effective in fighting a fire. Never test a fire extinguisher by using it.

• Rechargeable fire Extinguishers

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.

Importance of Pressure

Maintenance

Once a week, a fire extinguisher should be tested according to the user’s manual to ensure that it is properly pressurized.

- Think of what happens when you shake up a bottle of soda then open the cap. The pressure inside the bottle pushes the soda out. The same idea applies to a fire extinguisher. The contents in a fire extinguisher are pressurized, so when you squeeze the trigger, the pressure expels the fire-fighting agent. Without enough pressure the fire extinguisher may not work properly in an emergency, even if there is still agent inside the fire extinguisher.
- Never squeeze the trigger to check the pressure in a fire extinguisher! Squeezing the trigger will release the pressure needed to fight a fire.
- The extinguisher should never be exposed to temperatures that exceed 120°F or fall below -40°F.
- Always make sure the extinguisher is properly mounted or stored as recommended in the users manual.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Here is the right way to check the pressure on your First Alert® Fire Extinguisher. Be sure to check the pressure weekly.

- If your fire extinguisher has a pressure gauge: Make sure the arrow is pointing anywhere in the green area marked “FULL.”
- If your fire extinguisher has a green pressure-check button: Press the green button on the top of the fire extinguisher. If it pops back up your fire extinguisher has adequate pressure. If it does not pop back, replace the fire extinguisher immediately.