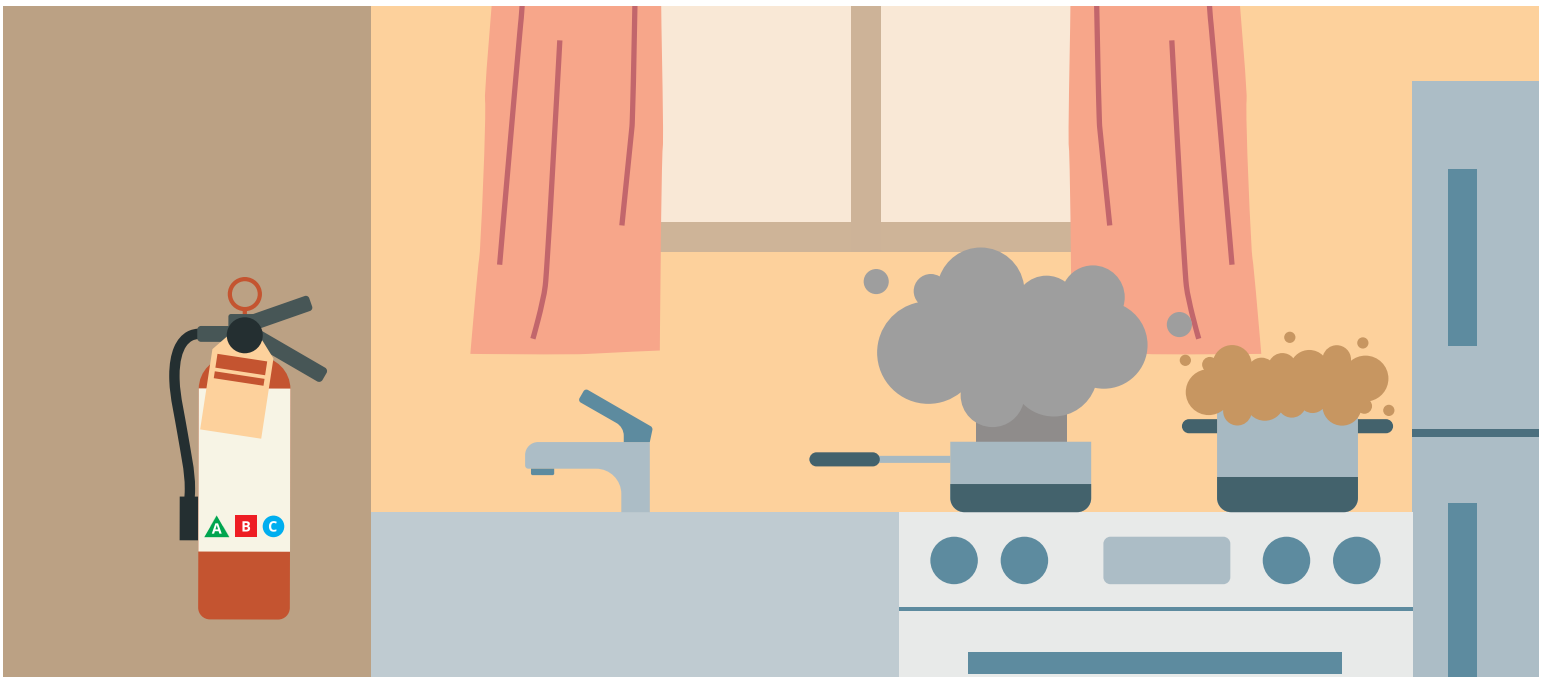




Get to Know Portable Fire Extinguishers



Should You Fight a Fire?



The best way to fight a fire is through prevention and early detection. Learning to properly use a portable fire extinguisher may prevent injury and minimize property damage.

Before fighting a fire, keep this checklist in mind. If you are unable to quickly assess if all items can be checked, leave immediately and call 9-1-1.

Checklist

- Has everyone left the building?
- Has the fire department been called?
- Is the fire contained to a small area?
- Do you have a clear escape route between you and the fire?
- Is there an appropriate, working fire extinguisher available?
- Do you know how to effectively use the extinguisher?



Remember, it is dangerous to fight a fire under any other circumstances!

Choosing a Portable Fire Extinguisher



Fire extinguishers are marked with letters that show what specific class of fire they can put out. It is important to choose the right fire extinguisher for the potential fires that could start in your home.

ABC-rated fire extinguishers are an excellent option for home use, as they can help extinguish three types of common home fires.

Class

Common types of fires



Class A extinguishers are for ordinary combustibles, such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber and many plastics.

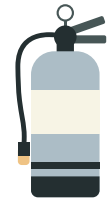


Class B extinguishers are for flammable liquids, such as gasoline, cooking oil, grease, tar, oil-based paint, lacquer and flammable gas.



Class C extinguishers are for energized electrical equipment, including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery and appliances.

Types of Portable Fire Extinguishers



The following table shows the different materials fire extinguishers use and what types of fires they are effective on. It is important to know the advantages and disadvantages of your fire extinguishers before use.

Extinguisher Type	Fire Classes	Advantages	Disadvantages
Water	<p>A Combustible materials, such as paper or rubber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absorbs heat Environmentally-friendly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May freeze in cold conditions Can spread Class B and D fires Can risk electrocution in Class C fires
Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical	<p>A Combustible materials, such as paper or rubber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common in homes Lightweight Does not freeze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaves a mess Regular Dry Chemical extinguishers are only suitable for Class B and C fires Contact can cause irritation to eyes, nose, throat and lungs
	<p>B Flammable liquids, like paint and fuel</p>		
	<p>C Electrical equipment</p>		
Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)	<p>B Flammable liquids, like paint and fuel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No residue Environmentally-friendly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can suffocate people and animals in confined spaces Not ideal in windy conditions Contact can cause frostbite Very heavy
	<p>C Live electrical equipment</p>		
Wet Chemical	<p>A Combustible materials, such as paper or rubber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only type of extinguisher suitable for Class K fires Often present in commercial kitchens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can create toxic fumes
	<p>K Cooking oils and fats</p>		
Foam	<p>A Combustible materials, such as paper or rubber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps prevent reignition in Class B fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freezing temperatures
	<p>B Flammable liquids, like paint and fuel</p>		
Dry Powder	<p>D Combustible metals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only type of extinguisher suitable for Class D fires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaves a mess that should not be inhaled Not suitable for other fire classes

Note: Halon fire extinguishers are not included as their production has been discontinued due to environmental concerns

Installation, Inspection and Maintenance



Note: Read the owner/operator's manual for installation, inspection and maintenance instructions specific to your fire extinguishers.

Installation

- Install fire extinguishers in plain view near an escape route.
- Install fire extinguishers away from stoves and heating appliances.
- Fire extinguishers should be located no more than 12 metres (40 feet) from the area of use (i.e., kitchen, sleeping area or garage).
- You should have at least one fire extinguisher in the kitchen and on every level of your home.

Inspection

- Inspect your fire extinguishers once a month:
 - Check the pressure gauge
 - Check for damage and leaks
 - Check if the pin is in place
 - Lift or weigh the fire extinguisher to see if it is full
- Take any fire extinguishers that fail inspection for service.
- Check to see if your fire extinguisher is under any Canadian federal recalls or safety alerts.
- Update the tag to track your extinguisher's inspection, service and recharge dates. If your extinguisher does not have a tag, attach one.

Maintenance

- Have all your fire extinguishers serviced annually by a certified service technician.
- Rechargeable fire extinguisher models must be serviced after every use.
- Disposable fire extinguishers must be replaced after use.

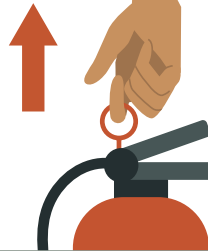


Fire Extinguisher Operation

When using your fire extinguisher, it is important to remember **PASS!**

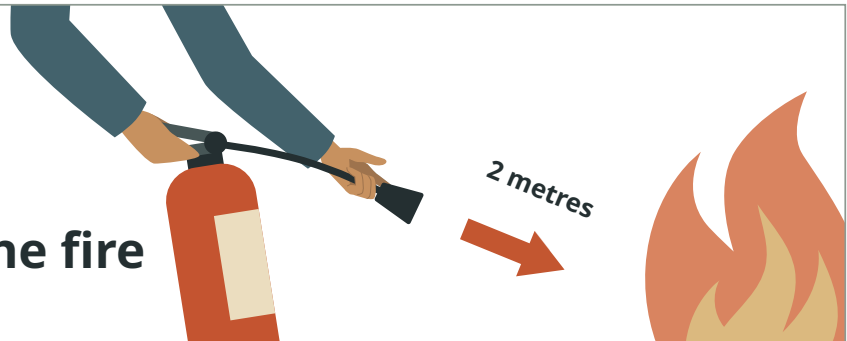
PULL

the pin



AIM

at the base of the fire



SQUEEZE

the lever



SWEEP

from side to side



Fire Extinguishing Reminders



- **Test** the extinguisher prior to approaching the fire.

- **Keep low** and approach with wind at your back, if outside.

- **Stay away** from the fire, keeping a distance of at least 2 metres (6.5 feet).

- **Remember** when using portable fire extinguishers on stove fires the extinguisher spray can knock over pots and pans, potentially causing the fire to spread.

- **Extinguish** the fire using PASS:
 - **Pull** the pin
 - **Aim** at the base of the fire
 - **Squeeze** the lever
 - **Sweep** from side to side

- **Back away** and watch out for re-ignition.

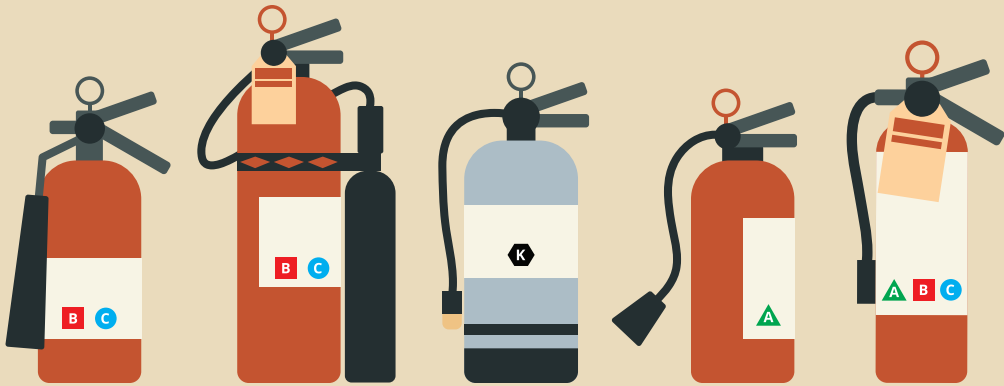
- **Leave** the building, close the door and wait for the fire department to arrive for further assessment. (Remember: Someone should call the fire department before you extinguish a fire.)

- **Never re-enter** the building without the fire department's approval.

- **Escape** if a fire does not extinguish after using one fire extinguisher. Leave the area and if possible, close the door. Get outside and call your local emergency number.

- **Never intentionally set a fire** for the purposes of portable fire extinguisher practice.

Contact your local fire department if you require additional portable fire extinguisher training in a safe environment.



provincial guide to home
fire and burn prevention