

# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN YOUR HOME

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



1. Why Have a Fire Extinguisher? A fire extinguisher can be a lifesaver in case of small fires. It's a quick response tool to prevent small flames from spreading into a larger, more dangerous fire. Every second counts, and being prepared makes a difference.

2. Types of Fire Extinguishers:

- Class A: For ordinary combustibles like wood, paper, and cloth.
- Class B: For flammable liquids like gasoline, oil, or grease.
- Class C: For electrical fires (from appliances, wiring, circuit breakers, etc.).
- Class ABC: A multipurpose extinguisher that can be used for most home fire types.

3. Where to Place Them:

- Kitchen: Near the stove, but not too close to prevent reaching it during a fire.
- Garage or Workshop: Flammable liquids are often stored here.
- Laundry Room: Especially important if you use a clothes dryer.
- Near Exits: Make sure the extinguisher is easily accessible if you need to escape quickly.

4. How to Use a Fire Extinguisher (Remember PASS):

- Pull the pin.
- Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the handle.
- Sweep the nozzle from side to side until the fire is out.

5. Maintenance Tips:

- Inspect monthly: Check that the extinguisher is not blocked, the pressure gauge is in the correct range, and it has no visible damage.
- Annual servicing: Have a professional inspect the extinguisher annually to ensure it's in working order.
- Replace after use or expiration: Even if it's used briefly or shows signs of wear, replace or service the extinguisher.

6. When NOT to Use a Fire Extinguisher:

- If the fire is too large or spreading rapidly, evacuate immediately.
- If you don't have a clear escape route.
- Always prioritize personal safety—call 911 for professional help.

7. Additional Fire Safety Tips:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and in sleeping areas.
- Develop and practice a home escape plan with your family.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in your vehicle for emergencies.

8. Stay Prepared – Stay Safe!