

Fire Extinguishers Safety

A fire extinguisher is a pressurized storage container for an extinguishing agent like water or chemicals. It is designed to put out a small fire, not a big one.

Extinguishers are labeled A,B,C or D according to the material which is burning (ie wood, gas electrical or metals).

You need an extinguisher at home

- If you plan to buy one extinguisher, a multi-purpose dry chemical labeled ABC puts out most types of fires - wood, paper, and cloth, flammable liquid or electrical fires.
- Extinguishers should be installed away from potential fire hazards and near an escape route.
- If there's a fire, call the fire department first. Get everyone outside. Then fight a small fire only.

If the fire gets large, get out. Close doors to slow the fire spread.

- Make sure you don't use one type of extinguisher on another type of fire - it may make the fire worse.
- Common errors (they can be fatal) are using water (A) on a grease or on an electrical fire (B or C).

To use most types of extinguishers remember P.A.S.S.

1. **Pull the pin.** Some units require the releasing of a lock latch, pressing a puncture lever, inversion, or other motion.
2. **Aim the extinguisher nozzle (horn, or hose) at the base of the fire.**
3. **Squeeze or press the handle.**
4. **Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire. Watch for reflash.**