

Fire Extinguisher Types & When To Use Them



Would you know what fire extinguisher to use if you were faced with a fire? This guide will break down the different types of fire extinguishers and which are suitable for the various fire classifications and risks you may face at home or your place of work.

It is important to understand and familiarise yourself with the different types of fire classification. Each extinguisher is labelled with the relevant classification sticker so it can be easily identifiable in the event of a breakout. Recognising them is vital and will spare you time and reduce the risk of potentially worsening the fire by using the wrong extinguisher.



Fire Classifications:



Class A - Wood, Paper & Furnishings

Fires fuelled by ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, paper, textiles and most plastics.



Class B - Flammable Liquids

Fire involving flammable or combustible liquids such as oils, petrol and spirits.



Class C - Flammable Gases

Fire involving flammable gases, such as propane, butane and methane.



Class D - Metals

Fire involving involve combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium, potassium and sodium.



Electrical

Electrical fires are not considered to constitute a fire class on their own. When the electrical supply has been isolated, the fire can be treated (generally) as 'Class A' for extinguishing purposes.



Class F - Cooking Oils

Fire involving high temperature cooking oils and fats. These are hard to extinguish so be sure to fully discharge the entire contents of the extinguisher.

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	Combustible materials	Flammable liquids	Flammable gases	Flammable metals	Electrical equipment	Deep fat fryers	
	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Water - Not to be used on liquid or electrical fires
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Foam - Not suited to domestic use
	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	ABC Dry Powder- Can be used safely up to 1000 volts
	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	CO2 - Safe on high and low voltage
	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	Wet Chemical - Use on extremely high temperatures
	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	Water Mist
	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	L2 Dry Powder