

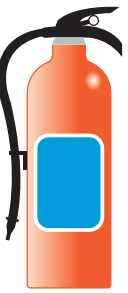
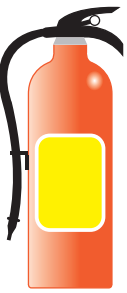





Information About Fire Extinguishers



Fire extinguishers are classified and colour coded according to the type of fire for which they are suitable.

| |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Fire Risk Classification | Water | Foam | Dry Powder | Wet Chemical | CO ₂ |
| CLASS A Fires involving freely burning materials eg wood, paper, textiles | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| CLASS B Fires involving flammable liquids eg petrol and spirits. Not alcohol or cooking oil | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| CLASS C Fires involving flammable gasses eg propane and butane | | | ✓ | | |
| ELECTRICAL Fires involving electrical equipment. eg televisions and computers | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| CLASS F Fires involving cooking oil and fat eg olive oil, maize oil, lard and butter | | | | ✓ | |

Hints and tips on how to use fire extinguishers

- do not fight a fire if it is dangerous to do so, if it is too large already, or if it is spreading rapidly - the fire or smoke could prevent you escaping
- before starting to fight a fire, ensure that the alarm has been raised
- take up a position giving unrestricted access to the fire, but allowing for a quick and safe escape
- crouch to keep clear of smoke, avoid heat and get closer to the fire
- if the fire continues to grow, leave immediately and if possible close any doors behind you.

The extinguishers

Type: Water (Colour: Red Use: Class A fires)

Notes: Suitable for most fires except those involving flammable liquids or live electrical apparatus.

Action:

1. aim the jet at the base of the flames and move it across the area of the fire
2. fight a fire spreading vertically by aiming at its lowest point and continue upwards
3. after the main fire is extinguished always check for and deal with any hot spots remaining.

Type: Foam (Colour: Cream Use: Class A and B fires)

Notes: The foam is very effective on most fires except electrical and chip pan fires.

Action:

1. for solids, aim the jet at the base of the flames and move it over the area of the fire
2. for liquids, don't aim the foam straight at the fire, which can spread the fire onto the surrounding area, instead aim it at a vertical surface
3. if the fire is in a container, direct the foam at the inside edge of the container, which allows the foam to build up and flow across the surface of the liquid to smother the fire.

Type: Dry powder (Colour: Blue Use: Class A, B and C fires and electrical equipment)

Notes: Suitable for most fires, especially those involving flammable liquids or electrical apparatus.
Dry powder is a good general extinguisher for domestic use

Action:

1. on electrical fires, switch off the power then direct the jet straight at the fire
2. if flowing liquids are on fire, aim the jet at the base of the flames and sweep upwards
3. on fires involving liquids in containers, direct the jet towards the near edge of the fire and using a brisk sweeping motion, drive the fire towards the far edge, until all the flames are extinguished.

Type: Wet chemical (Colour: Yellow Use: Class A fires, oil and fat)

Notes: Suitable for most fires except those involving flammable liquids or live electrical apparatus.

Action: follow the instructions as for Foam Extinguishers.

Type: CO₂ (Carbon dioxide) (Colour: Black Use: B, F and electrical equipment)

Notes: Suitable for fighting deep fat fryer and cooking oil fires.

Action:

1. follow the instructions as for dry powder
2. CO₂ extinguishers should never be used in confined spaces due to the danger of the fumes being inhaled
3. do not hold the horn as it becomes very cold when in use.

This information is also available in large print, audio and other languages. Should you require the information in any of these formats, please contact us on 0300 3038030.