

Fire Extinguishers

Being prepared for a fire is a vital component of every home's emergency plan. A fire extinguisher should be kept on each level of your home, in the kitchen and in the garage. Only use a fire extinguisher if the fire is small and contained. It's important to leave your home immediately if your exit starts to become blocked.

Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly to make sure they are fully charged and in good working order. Fire extinguishers need to be recharged after each use (even if they aren't empty) to ensure that there will be enough pressure and suppressant to properly extinguish another fire. They may also need to be recharged periodically throughout their lifespan. Your fire extinguishers should only be recharged by a certified fire equipment dealer or fire protection company.

All fire extinguishers receive a rating from the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) to identify the types of fires it's designed to put out:

- **Class A** extinguishes fires on typical combustibles like wood, plastic, or paper
- **Class B** extinguishes flammable liquids like gas and oil
- **Class C** extinguishes electrical fires
- **Class D** extinguishes fire involving metal
- **Class K** extinguishes typical kitchen fires involving oil and grease
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Classes A, B, and C are ideal for the typical home. Classes D and K are more suited to commercial applications. An ABC extinguisher uses a fine powder to suffocate a fire and prevent reignition. This type of extinguisher will put out the most common home fires and is safe to use on electrical fires.

Although most fire extinguishers won't have an expiration date listed, the typical lifespan is usually between **10 to 12 years**. Check the manufacturing date listed on the UL nameplate near the classification information. Old fire extinguishers can be disposed of at the recycling center in Lincoln City.

To use a fire extinguisher, remember the acronym PASS:

P - Pull the pin

A - Aim the nozzle low at the base of the fire

S - Squeeze the trigger

S - Sweep from side to side

Keep your fire extinguishers easily accessible, and make sure every member of your household knows where they are located.