

Fire Extinguisher Safety Tips

Fire extinguishers can save lives and your property. Below are some basic tips about using fire extinguishers in your recovery residence.

WHAT ARE EXTINGUISHER RATINGS AND CLASSIFICATIONS?

There are multiple types of fire extinguishers, which are classified to stop the spread of a specific types of fires.

- Class A: Designed to stop fires involving clothing, wood, rubber, plastics, and paper.
- Class B: Designed to extinguish fires involving flammable liquids, including grease, gasoline, oil, and others.
- Class C: Designed to stop fires involving electrical equipment, appliances, and tools.
- Class D: Designed for use on flammable metals, and are usually metal specific. These are usually only found in factories.
- Class K: These extinguishers are typically found in commercial kitchens, and are designed to extinguish fires involving animal fats, oils, lards, and other cooking elements.

WHAT TYPE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS DO I NEED FOR MY RECOVERY RESIDENCE?

- **Multipurpose Extinguisher:** This type fire extinguisher contains a multipurpose agent that fights Class A, Class B, and Class C fires. Select a multi-purpose extinguisher that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- **Primary Protection Extinguisher:** The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends at least one primary protection fire extinguisher for each level of the home. A primary protection fire extinguisher should have a fairly large capacity and must be UL Rated 2-A:10-B:C or higher. In addition to your primary protection, you should also have UL rated supplementary protection fire extinguishers for additional protection or specific hazards. You should not have to travel more than 40 feet to reach an extinguisher.

WHAT TO BUY? (All items can be found on Amazon.com)

Name	Price	Type	Rating
Kidde 21005779 Pro 210 Fire Extinguisher, ABC, 160CI	\$35.97	Primary, Multipurpose	2A:10B:C

SAFETY TIPS

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:
 - P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
 - A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
 - S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
 - S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.

ALSO

- Read the fire extinguisher's instructions and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.



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