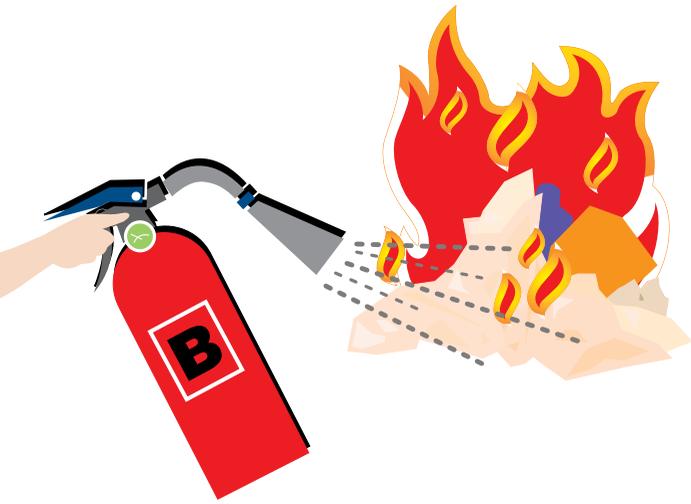


Portable Fire Extinguishers



OFFICE of the FIRE COMMISSIONER
and your LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

www.manitoba.ca/firecomm

Manitoba 

Every Home Should Have a Working Fire Extinguisher

Portable fire extinguishers are meant for putting out small fires or used to help escape from the area. They are not meant to fight large, out-of-control fires.

Location

Hang your extinguisher:

- according to NFPA guidelines.
- in plain view. Don't use it to hang clothing!
- out of reach of small children.
- near an exit door.
- away from stoves and heating appliances.
- with the instructions in clear view. Never paint a fire extinguisher!



Read the instructions and know how to use your extinguisher. Don't wait until your house is on fire to learn this important skill!

Maintenance

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for care and maintenance. Rechargeable models must be serviced after every use.

Disposable models can only be used once and must be replaced after use.

Monthly

- Make sure your extinguisher is at operating pressure by checking the round pressure gauge on its head. Dry powder extinguishers must be gently rocked, top to bottom, to ensure that the powder inside has not compacted.

Yearly

- Fire extinguishers shall be subjected to maintenance not more than 1 year apart, at the time of hydrostatic test, or when specifically indicated by an inspection.
- Hydrostatic test date must be adhered to.
- Inspect your portable fire extinguishers once a month, and have them serviced annually by certified personnel. Contact your local fire department to find out who services and checks portable fire extinguishers.

Using Your Portable Fire Extinguisher

Always follow the manufacturer's directions for the size and model you have; not all extinguishers work the same.

One simple rule to follow is PASS:

- Pull the pin — breaking the plastic or thin wire seal in the process.
- Aim low — direct the hose nozzle or cone at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the handle — this will release the contents of the extinguisher.
- Sweep — the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire. After the fire appears to be out, watch it carefully as it may re-ignite.



Fight or Flight

Before you try to fight a small fire remember to:

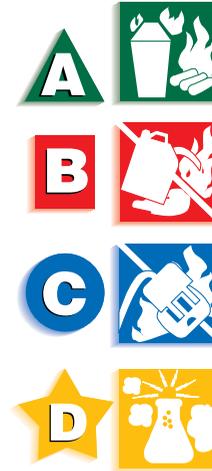
- Evacuate the building.
- Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.
- Make sure the fire is small enough to handle safely.
- Keep your back to an unobstructed exit.

- Make sure your extinguisher is the proper one for the job, and that you know how to use it. "Read it before you need it."
- Most home fire extinguishers are designed to handle small, contained fires. Never attempt to fight a fire if it puts you in danger!

Classes of Fires

There are four classes of fires that can occur in the home:

- **"A" class fires** – ordinary combustibles – wood, paper, cloth, trash, plastics and materials that are not metals.
- **"B" class fires** – flammable or combustible liquids, flammable gases, grease, oil-based paints, lacquers, and some rubbers.
- **"C" class fires** – energized (plugged-in) electrical equipment – household appliances, televisions, radios, stoves, etc.
- **"D" class fires** – combustible metals – magnesium, aluminum, sodium, potassium.



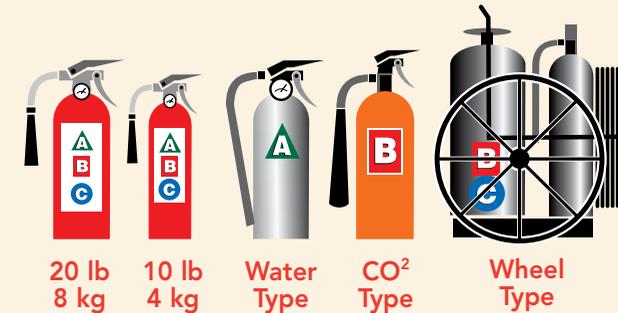
For general household use we recommend a multi-purpose ABC extinguisher.

How Will You Know if Your Extinguisher is the Correct One to Fight These Fires?

- Portable fire extinguishers are certified according to their intended use. They are also rated by independent laboratories to determine their extinguishing potential.
- These ratings, which can be found on the extinguisher's label, may consist of a letter or a number and letter, or some combination of both. The letter refers to the class of fire on which the extinguisher can be used. The number, used on

Class A and B extinguishers only, indicates the extinguisher's effectiveness.

- Example: A fire extinguisher is rated and classified 4-A:20-B:C. This indicates the following:
 1. It should extinguish approximately twice as much Class A fire as a 2-A (2 1/2 gal (9.46-L) water) rated fire extinguisher.
 2. It should extinguish approximately 20 times as much Class B fire as a 1-B rated fire extinguisher.
 3. It is suitable for use on energized electrical equipment.
- **Portable fire extinguishers were designed to fight** small, contained fires in the home, at the workplace and in the community. Remember, proper training must be taken before you attempt to fight any fire, large or small.
- **Small fires** have the potential to become large fires very quickly. The improper use of a portable fire extinguisher can increase this danger. If you use the wrong kind of extinguisher or use it in the wrong manner, the outcome could be disastrous.
- **Never** put yourself and others in danger.



IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO:

Know When To Go: React Fast To Fire

Get out and stay out.

Close the doors behind you to contain the fire.

Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number from a neighbor's phone.

Leave the firefighting to the professionals!