

Types of fire extinguishers



In order to know which type of fire extinguisher to use, you need to know the various types of fire you may need to tackle. Fires are commonly split into 6 different categories and fire extinguishers should only ever be used if it is safe to do so.



Class A
Combustible materials. These include paper, textiles, wood and similar materials.



Class D
Flammable metals. These include potassium and uranium.



Class B
Flammable liquids. These include petrol, oil and paint.



Electrical
Electrical goods. These include appliances in kitchens as well as computers, phones etc.



Class C
Flammable gases. These include butane and methane.



Class F
Cooking oils. These include chip pan fires and deep fat fryers.



Foam Extinguishers

Cream label

The most common type of extinguisher for Class B fires but can also be used on Class A. Foam extinguishers can also be used on Electrical fires up to 35000 volts.

Can be used on:



Water Extinguishers

Solid Red

Used on Class A fires which involve common materials like paper, wood, cardboard and any other combustible solid. They should not be used on electrical fires as water is a conductor.

Can be used on:



Powder Extinguishers

Blue label

Also known as ABC Powder extinguishers and carry a blue label. Used on Class A, B, C and Electrical fires. These extinguishers should only be provided in well-ventilated areas as there is a risk of inhalation when they are sprayed. Some can also be used on Class D, flammable metals.

Can be used on:



CO2 Extinguishers

Black label

CO2 extinguishers are commonly used on Class B, flammable liquid fires. They can also be used on Electrical fires as CO2 does not conduct any electricity.

Can be used on:



Wet Chemical Extinguishers

Yellow label

A Wet Chemical extinguisher is designed to be used on Class F fires which involve cooking oils. They have a yellow label and a special nozzle. They can also be used on Class A fires if needed.

Can be used on:

