

# Fire Extinguishers Information

It is a good idea to own at least one fire extinguisher. There are times when a small fire in the early stages can be fought successfully. But if you do not completely familiarize yourself with how to use your particular extinguisher, and on what type of fire it can be used, it can be dangerous to use. Read the instructions for your extinguisher and reread them from time to time. Ask your fire department how to use a fire extinguisher.

There are three basic classes of fire extinguishers. All fire extinguishers are labeled for the class they can extinguish. Type A is for ordinary combustibles or cellulose materials, such as wood. Type B is for combustible and flammable liquids, such as grease or paint. Type C is for fires in energized electrical equipment.

Fire extinguishers can be designed for use on one type of fire or on several. An extinguisher designated ABC will serve an average home and can be used on flammable liquid fires and electrical fires, and also can be used on wood paper or clothing fires. A good location might be in the kitchen, with an extra one in some other handy spot.

Look for an extinguisher tested by an independent testing laboratory. Both the class designation and the mark of laboratory testing should appear directly on the extinguisher. If you do not know what type of fire detector system or extinguisher would be best for you, you can call Captain Steve Vanasse at (413) 587-1032.