



## Keeping Your Family Safer with Fire Extinguishers

In addition to working smoke detectors, every family should have UL certified fire extinguishers strategically placed in rooms such as the kitchen, garage or workshop. Fire extinguishers are your second line of defense behind a smoke detector and can be the difference between a small inconvenience and a life-changing event.

Extinguisher rating	Intended use
Type A	For use on fires involving combustible materials such as wood, cloth and paper.
Type B	For use on flammable liquid fires, including kitchen grease. Never use water to extinguish this type of fire!
Type C	For use in fires involving energized electrical equipment.
Type ABC	Works on all three types of fires listed above.

### Where should I keep my extinguisher?

Don't just hang your extinguisher on the wall or in the cupboard. Plan ahead, read the instruction manual and know your extinguisher's capabilities before trying to fight a fire. Portable extinguishers are useful for putting out small fires, but recognize your limits and the limits of the extinguisher.

### Some basic rules to keep in mind when dealing with household fire extinguishers:

- If a fire breaks out, your first step is to call the fire department and get everyone out of the house. If the fire is not spreading and is confined to a small area, use the appropriate type extinguisher for the fire. Know both your limits and the fire extinguisher's limits.
- Periodically inspect your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use — even if you haven't used all of the extinguishing agent.
- When using a portable extinguisher, keep your back to an unobstructed exit that is free from fire.

Check the manufacturer's instructions for operating guidelines, including proper distance between the extinguisher and fire. Always aim at the base of the fire.