

SECURITY NEWSLINE

Official Newsletter For Customers And Pro-Partners of

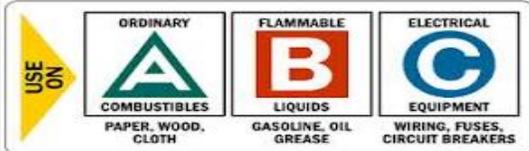


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Got Fire Extinguishers? Do You Know The Difference?



Class A fire extinguisher is used for ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, some plastics and textiles. This class of fire requires the heat-absorbing effects of water or the coating effects of certain dry chemicals.

Class B fires involve flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, grease and oil.

Class C fires involve electrical equipment such as appliances, wiring, circuit breakers and outlets. Never use water to extinguish class C fires.

Class D fire extinguishers are commonly found in a chemical laboratory. They are for fires that involve combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium, potassium and sodium.

Class D fire extinguishers are for fires that involve cooking oils, trans-fats, or fats in cooking appliances and are typically found in restaurants and cafeteria kitchens.

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Consumer Reports: Rating Residential Fire Extinguishers

Home fires are often unpredictable, and they can be deadly. That's why you need one full-floor, multipurpose fire extinguisher on each level of your home and one in your garage, plus smaller, supplemental units for the kitchen and car.

We tested six full-floor and seven supplemental models. Heavier extinguishers have more flame retardant and delivered it quicker and longer in our tests. Though models that weighed more than 9 pounds can be harder to hold and use, you should still buy the largest one you can comfortably handle. Of the full-floor models, the 2 Kidde discharged its contents quickly, and it's light, less costly, and easy to use. The 4 First Alert has a longer warranty, though its gauge is close to its ring pin, making the pin slightly harder to remove. 5 Kidde has lower relative effectiveness but might be easier to use. Models 1 through 8 contain chemicals that are effective on types A, B, and C fires. Models 7 Kidde, 9 Kidde, and 13 Kidde are only meant for smaller fires. 9 Kidde was easy to use and, along with 13 Kidde, is best used for flammable liquids, such as oil and gasoline, and electrical fires. They can also handle small grease fires. No matter which fire extinguisher you buy, make sure its pressure indicator shows "full" and that it was manufactured within the last year. The National Fire Protection Association recommends that dry chemical extinguishers that are intended to be discarded after use should be disposed of 12 years after the date of manufacture. It would be useful if more manufacturers placed an expiration date on their extinguishers.

This article appeared in May 2010 Consumer Reports Magazine

QUOTABLE QUOTES...

"There is scarcely anything in the world that some man cannot make a little worse, and sell a little more cheaply. The person who buys on price alone is this man's lawful prey."

-John Ruskin

"When obstacles arise, you change your direction to reach your goal; you do not change your decision to get there."

-Zig Ziglar

DID YOU KNOW?...

Judges' robes were not always black. In fact, they used to be as colorful as predicted by the fashion of the day. However, to mourn the death of Queen Mary II of England in 1694, Judges wore black robes...and never changed back to another color.