



## Household Fire Extinguishers

In addition to working smoke detectors, every household should have UL listed fire extinguishers strategically placed in rooms such as the kitchen, garage or workshop.

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 fire extinguishers are useful for putting out small fires, but recognize your limits and the limits of the extinguisher.

Using the wrong type of extinguisher on a fire can actually make it spread so it's important to plan ahead when purchasing and placing fire extinguishers.

### Here's 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 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.

### Requirements of the 2005 VERMONT FIRE & BUILDING SAFETY CODE

Any residential buildings shall have a portable fire extinguisher, near an exit and having a minimum rating of **2-A:10-B:C**, provided in each dwelling unit and installed in accordance with NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*. [NFPA 1141 Sec 8.2.2]

Portable fire extinguishers shall be maintained in a fully charged and operable condition and shall be kept in their designated places at all times when they are not being used. [NFPA 1 Sec.13.6.3.2] [NFPA 10 Sec:1.5.2]

Fire extinguishers shall be conspicuously located where they will be readily accessible and immediately available in the event of fire. Preferably, they shall be located along normal paths of travel, including exits from areas. [NFPA 1 Sec.13.6.3.3] [NFPA 10 Sec1.5.3]

Fire extinguishers having a gross weight not exceeding 40 lb shall be installed so that the top of the fire extinguisher is not more than **5 ft** above the floor. In no case shall the clearance between the bottom of the fire extinguisher and the floor be less than **4 in**. [NFPA 1 Sec 3.6.3.10] [NFPA 10 Sec 1.5.10]

Having fire extinguishers in your home and on the farm does not relieve you and family members from the responsibilities of taking precautions to prevent fires, nor do fire extinguishers take the place of trained fire department personnel.

A fire extinguisher is designed to reduce the chances of injury and death to you and family members during the time it takes to leave the structure and for trained help to arrive in the event of an accidental fire.

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