



How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

Experts recommend keeping a fire extinguisher on every level of your home. Learn how to use a fire extinguisher now so you are prepared if a fire ever breaks out.

THE VITAL ROLE OF FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety encompasses prevention and protocol to follow in the event of a fire. **Prevention steps include:**

- Identify potential fire hazards throughout your home
- Assess high risk areas like the kitchen and laundry room
- Equip every room with a smoke detector
- Equip every level with a fire extinguisher
- Check all devices regularly to be sure they are operational



How the Fire Extinguisher PASS Method Works

This simple acronym makes it easy to remember the **PASS** fire extinguisher method:



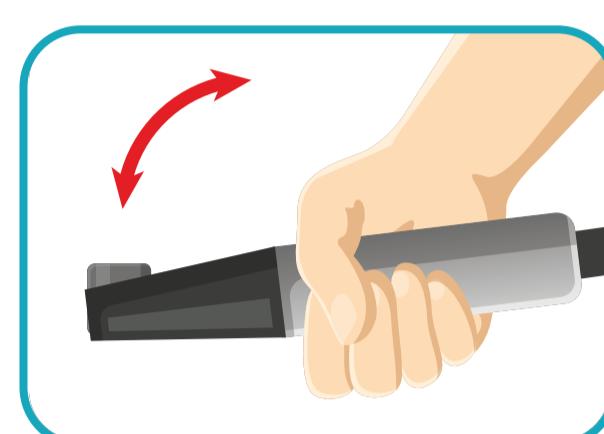
PULL



AIM



SQUEEZE



SWEEP

Step-by-Step Guide to Using a Fire Extinguisher

Step 1 PULL

Pull the pin out of the handle on top of the canister so you can operate the fire extinguisher.

Step 2 AIM

Aim the hose at the base of the fire, holding the handle with your other hand. Always aim for the base of the fire, rather than the flames.

Step 3 SQUEEZE

Squeeze the trigger on the handle slowly and evenly so the extinguisher operates as efficiently as possible.

Step 4 SWEEP

Sweep the hose from side to side to fully cover the fire area as quickly as possible, since most extinguishers only have about 8 seconds of operation time.

How to Choose a Fire Extinguisher

Fire extinguishers come in a variety of sizes. Choose the largest extinguisher you can safely and comfortably operate on your own.

5 classifications of fire extinguishers:

EXTINGUISHER TYPE	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C	CLASS D	CLASS K
FOAM SPRAY	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
ABC POWDER	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
CARBON DIOXIDE	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
WET CHEMICAL	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
WATER	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO

Choose an all-purpose fire extinguisher for your home so you are prepared for a variety of fires. **An A-B-C extinguisher is best.**

Fire Extinguisher Safety

Fire extinguishers are safe devices when they are used correctly. Practice these steps to ensure fire extinguisher safety.



Mount extinguishers out of reach of small children and pets.



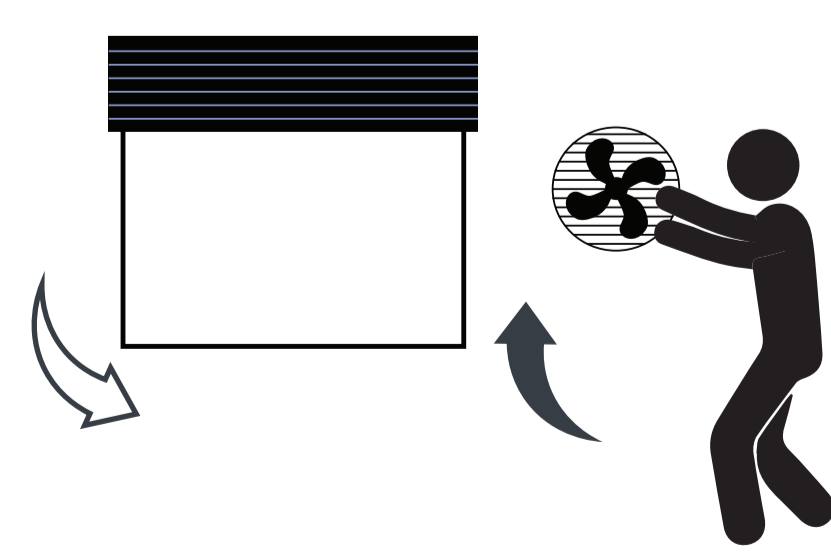
If a fire is large or out of control, exit immediately and call 911. Don't try to use a fire extinguisher.



Always use a fire extinguisher with your back to the exit, in case you need to evacuate.



Never point an extinguisher near people or pets to prevent skin, eye, and lung irritation.



Air out any area where an extinguisher is used before re-entering.

