



# CLASSIFICATION OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

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Portable fire extinguishers are classified to indicate their ability to handle specific classes and sizes of fires. Labels on extinguishers indicate the class and relative size of fire that they can be expected to handle.

		<b>Class A:</b> Ordinary Combustibles	Wood, paper, cloth, trash, plastics, and other solids that are not metal
		<b>Class B:</b> Flammable or combustible liquids or gases	Gasoline, oil, petroleum greases, tars, oils, oil-based paints, solvents, lacquers, alcohols, flammable gases
		<b>Class C:</b> Electrical	Energized electrical equipment (plugged-in)
		<b>Class D:</b> Metals	Magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, lithium, and potassium
		<b>Class K:</b> Combustible cooking	Grease or oil, such as vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances

**Class A Extinguishers** will put out fires in ordinary combustibles, such as wood and paper. The numerical rating for this class of fire extinguisher refers to the amount of water the fire extinguisher holds and the amount of fire it will extinguish.

**Class B Extinguishers** should be used on fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, etc. The numerical rating for this class of fire extinguisher states the approximate number of square feet of a flammable liquid fire that a non-expert person can expect to extinguish.

**Class C Extinguishers** are suitable for use on electrically energized fires. This class of fire extinguishers does not have a numerical rating. The presence of the letter “C” indicates that the extinguishing agent is non-conductive.

**Class D Extinguishers** are designed for use on flammable metals and are often specific for the type of metal in question. These extinguishers generally have no rating nor are they given a multi-purpose rating for use on other types of fires.

**Class K Extinguishers** are designed for use in cooking appliances that involve combustible cooking media.

Extinguishers suitable for more than one class of fire should be identified by multiple symbols placed in a horizontal sequence on the fire extinguisher label.