






ABOUT FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

| Class | TYPES OF FIRES | Symbol |
|-------|---|---|
| A | ORDINARY COMBUSTIBLES: wood, paper, cloth, trash and other ordinary materials. |  |
| B | FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS & GASES: gasoline, oils, paint lacquer and tar. |  |
| C | FIRES INVOLVING LIVE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT. |  |
| D | COMBUSTIBLE METALS OR COMBUSTIBLE METAL ALLOYS (NO picture symbol) |  |
| K | FIRES IN COOKING APPLIANCES THAT INVOLVE COMBUSTIBLE COOKING MEDIA: vegetable or animal oils and fats |  |

Along with the classification shown above, the numerical rating of an extinguisher is an important factor in the proper selection of an extinguisher. The rating is a measure of the extinguishing potential of the fire extinguisher and is developed on the basis of comparative fire tests.

Only Class A and Class B classifications carry numerical ratings. Basically the higher the number associated with the classification letter, the larger the fire the extinguisher has the potential to extinguish.

Class A fire tests involve two types of fire, a wood crib fire test and a wood panel fire test. For example to achieve a 3-A rating an extinguisher must successfully extinguish a burning wood crib measuring 29" x 29" x 27" and a wood panel measuring 12' x 12'.

Class B fire tests involve square trays containing flammable liquid. For example to achieve a 40-B rating an extinguisher must successfully extinguish a burning pan measuring 100 sq. ft..

There are no numerical ratings associated with **Class C, D or K**.

For Class C, the electrical non conducting characteristics of the agent are verified, not it's extinguishing potential.

For Class D, only the amount of agent and application method needed to control a metal fire of a certain size and type is tested.

For Class K, the extinguisher must extinguish 80 lb. of burning cooking oil in a commercial deep fat fryer and in doing so, cause no splashing of flaming oil outside the fryer.

Fire Extinguishers May Feature This Information:

UL or FM Listing Information

DOT Compliance

USCG Approval

Operating and Maintenance Instructions in Several Languages

Color-Coded Gauges Showing Operating Status

Model and Serial Number

Provided as a Reference Only by the Activar Construction Products Group. Consult your AHJ to Determine Which Extinguisher Meets Codes in Your Area.

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