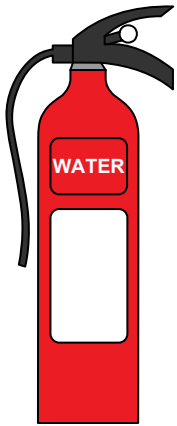


# Types of Fire Extinguishers



There are many different types of fire extinguisher available. Each type will perform different roles in the event of different classes of fire. Below we will look at the four most common types of fire extinguishers you are likely to encounter.



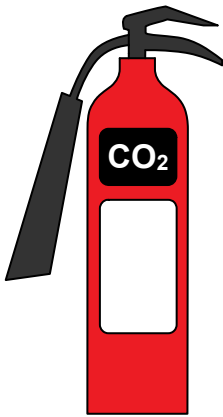
**Water Extinguishers** are best used on fires burning from solid fuels like wood, paper and plastics.

**DO NOT** use water extinguishers on burning liquids like oil in chip pans. The water will cause the oil to explode out of the pan.

**DO NOT** use water extinguishers on electrical equipment. The electricity can be conducted up the water and into your body.

**How to use:** Aim the water jet at the base of the flames and keep it moving over the area of the fire. Use the whole content of the extinguisher

**How does it work:** Water extinguishers work by cooling the fire down.



**Carbon Dioxide Extinguishers** can be used on most fires. They are particularly good on fires involving electrical equipment.

**How to use:** Aim the horn at the base of the flames, use it in short bursts, and keep it moving over the area of the fire.

**DO NOT** touch the nozzle as the gas is freezing cold.

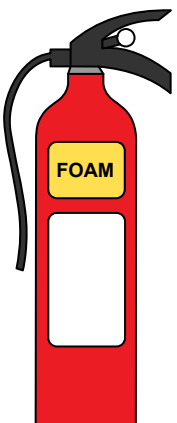
**How does it work:** Carbon Dioxide extinguishers work by displacing the oxygen in the fire. It is for this reason that they shouldn't be used in confined spaces.



**Dry Powder Extinguishers** are safe to use on most fires involving solid, gas and liquid fuels. There are two types of powder extinguisher, Standard and Multi-Purpose. **Multi-Purpose** work best on solid burning fires. **Standard powders** work best on burning liquids.

**How to use:** Aim the jet at the base of the flames and move it from side to side.

**How does it work:** Dry Powder extinguishers work by smothering the fire. This doesn't cool the fire so fires that seem to be out can re ignite.



**Foam Extinguishers** are effective to use on most fires involving solids and liquids.

**DO NOT** use foam extinguishers on electrical equipment. Like water, the electricity can be conducted up the spray.

**How to use:** If the *fire involves a solid fuel*, aim the jet at the base of the flames and move the jet over the area of the fire.

If the *fire involves a liquid fuel*, aim at a nearby vertical surface, with the aim to build up a flow of foam over the liquid.

**How it works:** Foam Extinguishers work by building up a layer of foam over the fire.