Facts About Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are great for putting out small fires - but only if you use the right one. The wrong extinguisher can make a fire worse. There are five kinds of fire extinguishers.

- **Type A** (green label) for fires involving:
  - wood
  - paper
  - cloth
  - rubbish

- **Type B** (red label) for fires involving flammable gases/liquids, including:
  - gasoline
  - solvents
  - vapors
  - gas leaks

- **Type C** (blue label), for:
  - electrical fires

- **Type D** (yellow label), for fires involving combustible metals, such as:
  - magnesium
  - sodium
  - potassium
  - sodium potassium alloys

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher before you’re confronted with a fire is one of the best ways to prevent an emergency. Before you use an extinguisher, consider the following:

*Is the fire small and contained?*

*Are you 6 to 10 feet from the blaze with your back to a safe exit?*

*Do you have the right type of extinguisher for the type of fire?*

**Here’s How to Use a Portable Fire Extinguisher:**

1. Pull the safety pin.
2. Stand about 8 feet from the fire.
3. Aim at the base of the fire.
4. Squeeze the trigger.
5. Use a back and forth sweeping motion.
6. Aim accurately; fire extinguishers may only last from about 3 to 20 seconds.
7. Use a fire extinguisher only if the fire is small and easily contained.

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (800) 252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384. CLAIM REPORTING HOTLINE (844) 562-2720 | Available 24/7