

Fire Extinguisher Classes – Canada

Classes of Fire

Fire classes and extinguisher labels are different throughout the world. In Canada, the classes of fire are similar to the United States.

| Class | Fuel Sources |
|----------|---|
| A | Ordinary combustibles (trash, wood, paper, cloth, most plastics) |
| B | Flammable liquids (oils, grease, tar, gasoline, paints, thinners) |
| C | Electricity (live electrical equipment such as appliances, wiring, outlets) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NEVER use water to extinguish class C fires |
| D | Combustible metals (magnesium, titanium, potassium) |
| K | Cooking oils, trans-fats, or fats in cooking appliances |

For fires involving a combination of these classifications, your fire extinguisher should have an ABC rating on them.

Fire Extinguishers

Choose the correct class of fire extinguisher for the fire you intend to fight.

| Fire extinguisher | Fire Class |
|---|------------------------|
| Air-pressurized Water (APW) | Class A fires only |
| Dry Chemical | Class A, B and C fires |
| Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) | Class B and C fires |
| Chemical Foam | Class A and B fires |
| Dry and Wet Chemical (for kitchen fires) | Class K |

Using the wrong extinguisher to fight a fire can have serious consequences. For example, if a water-based extinguisher is used on a flammable liquid fire, the fire has the potential to flare up, spread and cause serious injury.