



Fire Extinguisher Classes:

The letter on a fire extinguisher indicates its classification:

- Class A puts out ordinary combustible fires (wood, paper, plastic, etc.)
- Class B puts out flammable liquid fires (oil, gas, petroleum, etc.)
- Class C puts out electrical fires
- Class D puts out combustible metal fires (magnesium, titanium, potassium, sodium, etc.)
- Class K puts out cooking fires ignited by flammable oil and grease

Since Class A, B, and C fires are all found in conventional homes and businesses, ABC fire extinguishers are designed to put out all three types of fires.

Fire Extinguisher Ratings:

An ABC Fire Extinguisher might have a UL Rating of 4-A:80-B:C. But what do these fire extinguisher ratings mean? The numbers in the UL Rating are a relative measurement of how effective a given extinguisher is at fighting certain classes of fires, based on proper fire extinguisher training.

A: The number in front of the "A" measures water equivalency. One A is equivalent to 1.25 gallons of water, so a unit with a 4A rating has an equivalent of 5 gallons of water to battle Class A fires.

B: The number in front of the "B" is a relative measure of the area an extinguisher can cover.

C & K: These letters indicate that an extinguisher can be used effectively against these fire classes.

It can be difficult to think clearly during an emergency, so fire safety has a long-standing acronym to help you recall the steps involved in operating your fire extinguisher. When extinguishing a fire, you should **PASS**:

P: Pull the pin on the fire extinguisher.

A: Aim the extinguisher nozzle on the hose low, toward the base of the fire.

S: Squeeze the handle or lever to discharge the extinguisher.

S: Sweep the nozzle back and forth. Keep the fire extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and move it from side to side until the flames are extinguished.