



Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Phone 416-901-9198 Fax 416-901-5654



**When buying a fire extinguisher, you must know where the extinguisher is likely to be used and what kind of fire may be involved. Class A, B, C.**

At SCO Fire & Life Safety we carry only the highest rated fire extinguishers for commercial & industrial use. We are the first Fire equipment company to offer these high quality units and proper maintenance to home owners publicly or through the web in the GTA. You can find supply companies offering fire extinguishers but not fire protection or equipment companies. Get the extinguisher you need from professionals. Someone in the hardware store might know where the fire extinguishers are located but can you truly believe they understand the rating system or the proper use of a portable fire extinguisher? Even if you don't buy the best fire extinguisher possible from SCO we want you to be informed and make the right choice for your needs.

Class A fires - the most common type, are ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, cloth, rubber and many plastics. To remind yourself what a class A fire is, think of things that make an **"ASH! A class fire"**

Class B fires - flammable liquids, gases and greases. To remind yourself what a class B fire is, think of things that **"bubble or boil" B class fire"**

Class C fires - energized electrical equipment or wiring where the electric non-conductivity of the extinguishing agent is important. However, when the equipment or wiring is de-energized, remaining combustion is Class A or B and extinguishers for those fires may be safely used. To remind yourself of what a C class fire is, think of things that **"Conduct Current or electricity C class fire"**

Class D fires - combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium and potassium. **These are not materials you should have in your home!**



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## Extinguisher Ratings

The most reliable guide to the fire-fighting ability of an extinguisher is the rating assigned to it by Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada, Inc., which appears on the equipment nameplate. Size alone is not a satisfactory measure of extinguisher effectiveness.

Each rating consists of one or more numbers and letters. The letter tells the class of fire the extinguishing agent is designed for. The number indicates approximate relative extinguishing potential. For example, an extinguisher rated 4A is capable of putting out twice as much burning material as one rated 2A. (The "A" means Class A.)

The number used for Class B extinguishers also shows the square-foot area of a deep-layer flammable liquid fire which a trained operator can put out.

Class C extinguishers have no "C" commercial rating.

As an example the old rated 2A 10BC rated fire extinguisher was filled with 5lbs of dry chemical but the newest 3A 40BC is filled with only 5lbs of dry chemical. The rating makes the newest extinguishers the most effective units every made increasing novice success if home owners take the time to read the instructions and maintain their home extinguishers.



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## **Most Common Types of Extinguishers**

**Water-type extinguisher - Class A fires, includes water, antifreeze, soda-acid, wetting agent and loaded-stream extinguishers. Only available from Fire protection or Fire equipment companies. Never recommended for use in your home.**

**Carbon dioxide extinguisher - Class B and C fires, has limited range and is affected by draft and wind. Only available from Fire protection or Fire equipment companies. Never recommended for use in your home. Can be used at the cottage or in your garage if you have a small work shop with electrical tools and flammable liquids. It's highly recommended your take a proper training if you want to purchase a Carbon dioxide fire extinguisher.**

**Dry-chemical extinguisher - Class B and C fires, includes sodium bicarbonate base agents. The most common place you can use a BC rated extinguisher is in your kitchen. Its non toxic sodium bicarbonate won't contaminate your kitchen. Dry-chemical extinguishers marked general-purpose or multipurpose can be used on Class A, B and C fires. These can be used all around your home and are the best chance of extinguishing a fire in the home if, you maintain it and read the instruction on its proper use. If you are fortunate enough to train on the operation of a portable fire extinguisher through your Occupational Health and Safety program at work you will know exactly why it so important to maintain your homes fire extinguisher.**

**A number of extinguishers are labeled "all purpose" or "multipurpose." They use a fine powder of ammonium phosphate that is effective against all types of fire. They operate in an almost fluid state but quickly dissipate to a dust all around you and can reduce your visibility in a fire in a matter of seconds. They are a logical choice but not as efficient at extinguishing as the rated units can be for specific types of fires. The best extinguisher comes from a fire equipment company period! Buy the best for your home.**

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## **Extinguisher Placement**

**One fire extinguisher is not enough protection for a home. Four would provide good protection in a three-bedroom home with a basement and garage—one near the bedrooms, one for the basement, one for the garage and one for the kitchen.**

**It is recommended that multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher units with the highest ratings be used throughout your house as protection against all types of fires.**

**Do not mount a fire extinguisher too close to a place fire might occur. For example: in the kitchen, do not mount it close to the stove. In the basement, the best place is at the top of the stairs unless circumstances demand that it be near a workshop area. You should not risk reaching into a fire or going into a burning area to get a fire extinguisher.**

**Also use caution to fight only minor fires. In case of a serious blaze, all persons should immediately leave the house. Notify the fire department from a neighbor's home or your cell phone from outside your house.**

**We hope that this information can be useful to you in your decision to purchase fire extinguishers for your home or place of business. At SCO we care that you are informed. If you wish to purchase or contact us, email at [admin@subcomone.com](mailto:admin@subcomone.com) or call 416-901-9198**

**Thank you and make your 1<sup>st</sup> Intention Fire Prevention**

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