



## Using a Fire Extinguisher

A fire extinguisher can be a valuable tool for extinguishing small contained fires. They aren't, however, designed to fight large fires and they aren't for everyone. You should use them only if you are an adult, know how to operate the extinguisher, can reach the extinguisher easily, the extinguisher matches the type of fire you're fighting and you have a clear escape route.

There are several different types of fire extinguishers available. The recommended fire extinguisher for home use is multipurpose ABC. This type of extinguisher is capable of extinguishing ordinary combustibles, flammable liquids and electrical fires. Read the label to determine the type of extinguisher you own. Using the wrong type of extinguisher can make fire worse and endanger the user. Fire extinguishers should be mounted in plain view, near an escape route and away from stoves and heating appliances.

Take care of your extinguisher. Read the instructions. Learn how to inspect your extinguisher and follow manufacturer's instruction for maintenance. Rechargeable extinguishers must be serviced after every use. Disposable extinguishers can be used only once and must be replaced after use.



When using a fire extinguisher, remember **P.A.S.S.**

1. Pull the safety pin
2. Aim the nozzle or hose at the base of the flames
3. Squeeze or press the handle
4. Sweep from side to side

Always have a clear exit at your back. Remember, fires grow quickly and are unpredictable. Evacuate the building. Have someone notify the fire department, Only fight a small fire with an extinguisher and know your extinguisher.