

Current Fire Extinguisher Colour Codes (UK)

Fire extinguishers meeting BS EN3 are manufactured with a red body and have a band of a second colour covering between 5-10% of the surface relating to the extinguisher's contents. Each different type of extinguisher agent has a corresponding colour making identification easier for the user.



Wet chemical fire extinguisher have no previous colour code

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DO NOT HOLD THE HORN WHEN OPERATING



Fire Extinguisher Classes

Fires are identified using a classification system. Each class identifies the type of fuel involved and allows appropriate fire extinguisher media to be identified.

Class Icon	Name of Class	Type of Fire / Fuel Involved
	Class A Fires	Freely Burning Materials
		i.e.: Wood, Paper, Straw, Textiles, Coal etc.
	Class B Fires	Flammable Liquids
		i.e.: Petrol, Diesel, Oils, Paraffin etc.
\} C ₩	Class C Fires	Flammable Gases
		i.e.: Methane, Propane, Hydrogen, Natural Gas etc.
D METAL	Class D Fires	Flammable Metals
		i.e.: Magnesium, Aluminium, Lithium etc.
	Class F Fires	Combustible Cooking Media
		i.e.: Cooking Oil, Fats, Grease etc.
4	Electrical Fires	Electrical Appliances
		i.e.: Computers, Stereos, Fuse boxes etc.

How to use Water Fire Extinguishers

- 1. Before attempting to fight a fire with a fire extinguisher it is important to check that it is fully charged (Fig. 1) and that the safety pin is not bent (Fig. 2)
- 2. Ensure you remain a safe distance from the fire and remove the safety pin (Fig.3) this will break the tamper seal
- 3. Where to aim the fire extinguisher hose:
 - Fires spreading horizontally: Aim the hose at the base of the fire, moving the jet across the area of the fire
 - Fire spreading vertically: Aim the hose at the base of the fire, slowly moving the jet upwards following the direction of the fire
- 4. Squeeze the lever slowly to begin discharging the extinguisher, as the fire starts to diminish carefully move closer to it
- 5. Ensure all the fire has been extinguished, try to focus on any hot spots that may re-ignite









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How to use ABC Powder Fire Extinguishers

- 1. Before attempting to fight a fire with a fire extinguisher it is important to check that it is fully charged (Fig. 1) and that the safety pin is not bent (Fig. 2)
- 2. Ensure you remain a safe distance from the fire and remove the safety pin (Fig.3) this will break the tamper seal
- 3. Where to aim the fire extinguisher hose:
 - Solid Materials: Aim the hose at the base of the flames, moving across the area of the fire
 - **Spilled liquids:** Aim the hose at the near edge of the fire and with a rapid sweeping motion, drive the fire towards the far edge until all the flames have been extinguished
 - Flowing liquid: Direct the hose at the base of the fire and sweep upwards until the flames have been extinguished
 - Electrical equipment: Switch off the power (if safe to do so) and then direct the hose straight at the fire
- 4. Squeeze the lever slowly to begin discharging the extinguisher, as the fire starts to diminish carefully move closer to it
- 5. Ensure all the fire has been extinguished, re-ignition can be possible when a powder fire extinguisher has been used



How to use AFFF Foam Fire Extinguishers

- 1. Before attempting to fight a fire with a fire extinguisher it is important to check that it is fully charged (Fig. 1) and that the safety pin is not bent (Fig. 2)
- 2. Ensure you remain a safe distance from the fire and remove the safety pin (Fig.3) this will break the tamper seal
- 3. Where to aim the fire extinguisher hose:
 - Flammable liquids: Aim the hose at a vertical surface near the fire, do not spray directly at the fire as this could cause the fire to be pushed and spread to surrounding areas. Foam extinguishers allow a build up of foam across the surface of the fire causing it to be smothered
 - Solid combustibles: Aim the hose at the base of the fire, moving across the area of the fire
- 4. Squeeze the lever slowly to begin discharging the extinguisher, as the fire starts to diminish carefully move closer to it
- 5. Ensure all the fire has been extinguished, the foam creates a blanket over the fire and helps to prevent re-ignition







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Fig. 3



How to use CO2 Fire Extinguishers

- Before attempting to fight a fire with a fire extinguisher it is important to check that it is fully charged and that the safety pin is not bent
- 2. Ensure you remain a safe distance from the fire and remove the safety pin this will break the tamper seal
- 3. Do Not hold the horn as it becomes extremely cold during use and can lead to severe frost burns.
- 4. Aiming the extinguisher:
 - Flammable liquids: Aim the horn at the base of the fire and move across the area
 - Electrical equipment: Switch off the power (if safe to do so) and then direct the hose straight at the fire
- 5. Squeeze the lever slowly to begin discharging the extinguisher, as the fire starts to diminish carefully move closer to it
- 6. Ensure all the fire has been extinguished as re-ignition is possible when a CO2 extinguisher has been used

How to use Wet Chemical Fire Extinguishers

- 1. Before attempting to fight a fire with a fire extinguisher it is important to check that it is fully charged and that the safety pin is not bent (Fig. 2)
- 2. Turn off the heat source if it is safe to do so
- 3. Ensure you remain a safe distance from the fire and remove the safety pin (Fig.3) this will break the tamper seal
- 4. Hold the lance at arm's length, well above the fire with its nozzle at least 1 metre away from the fire.
- 5. Squeeze the lever slowly to begin discharging the extinguisher
- 6. Apply the fine spray in slow circular movements, this allows the wet chemical agent to fall gently onto the surface of the fire and helps to prevent hot oils splashing on to the user.
- 7. Discharge the entire contents of the extinguisher to ensure that all of the fire has been extinguished, the wet chemical formula helps to prevent re-ignition



How to use Fire Blankets

- 1. Turn off the heat source if it is safe to do so (Do not attempt to move the pan)
- 2. Pull the tapes to release the blanket from its container
- 3. Hold the blanket in a shield position and if possible wrap the blanket around your hands for protection
- 4. Place the blanket gently over the pan/container to smother the fire
- 5. Leave the pan to cool completely do not attempt to uncover until it is completely cool

Fire blankets can also be used on fires involving personal clothing, simply wrap the blanket tightly around the fire to smother.

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