






## Fire Classification And Extinguishers

Fires are classed according to the material that is burning.

Additional risks including electricity and the amount or combination of materials that is burning may have an impact on the use of an extinguisher in any fire situation.

It must also be recognised that there is no single extinguisher that will appropriate to deal with all classifications of fire that may occur.

The table below identifies, the material being burnt and the associated classification of fire

		EXTINGUISHING AGENT				
FIRE TYPE		Water	Foam	CO <sub>2</sub>	Powder	Wet Chemical
Class A: Cardboard, paper, wood, textiles (anything organic)		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Class B: Flammable liquids (e.g. petrol, oils, paints)		✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Class C: Fires involving flammable gases (e.g. propane)		✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Class D: Fires involving metals (specialist extinguishers required)		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Live electrical equipment		✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Class F: Fires involving cooking oils		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓

Each fire extinguisher has a colour coded label that will identify the contents

UK Extinguisher Colour Code*	Red	Cream	Black	Blue	Yellow
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