

# Fire Extinguisher Colour Guide

Which Kind Of Fire Extinguisher Does  
Your Business Need?



**LATHAM'S STEEL SECURITY DOORSETS**

**Fire extinguishers should form the core of any business fire protection plan. Modern fire extinguishers come in an array of classes, each with different applications, depending on the kind of fire that breaks out.**

The UK recognises six fire classes:

- Class A fires involve organic solids such as paper and wood.
- Class B fires involve flammable or combustible liquids, including petrol, grease, and oil.
- Class C fires involve flammable gases.
- Class D fires involve combustible metals.
- Class E fires involve electrical equipment/appliances.
- Class F fires involve cooking fat and oil.

## Water fire extinguisher



Water fire extinguishers are the most widely used. They are also the best value for money. Despite this, they are only suitable for use on Class A fires. In particular, do not use water fire extinguishers on flammable liquid fires (paraffin, petroleum) or electricity-based fires.



**Use On:**  
Wood  
Paper  
Textiles



**Don't use on:**  
Flammable liquids  
Live electrical equipment

# Foam



Foam fire extinguishers are the next step up from water fire extinguishers. Slightly more costly but with more versatile applications, foam fire extinguishers are generally the better choice. Use foam fire extinguishers on Class A fires (paper, wood, plastic) or Class B fires (flammable liquids, paraffin, petroleum).



#### Use On:

- Wood
- Paper
- Textiles
- Flammable liquids



#### Don't use on:

- Live electrical equipment

# Dry powder



Dry powder fire extinguishers are the most versatile class, being suitable for use on Class A, B and C fires. Caution is advised when extinguishing Class C fires, however: extinguishing a gas fire without having isolated the gas supply can be dangerous.



#### Use On:

- Wood
- Paper
- Textiles
- Flammable liquids
- Gaseous fires
- Live electrical equipment

# Carbon dioxide



Carbon dioxide fire extinguishers are best suited for use on Class E fires (electrical). They will also extinguish Class B liquid fires. Caution is advised when using carbon dioxide to extinguish Class B fires, however; flammable liquids extinguished in this way are susceptible to reignition.



**Use On:**  
Flammable liquids

Live electrical equipment



**Don't use in**  
a confined space

# Wet chemicals



Class F fires (cooking oil and fat) are particularly dangerous due to the properties of oil and fat. Specialist wet chemicals extinguisher are therefore used for Class F fires only.



**Use On:**  
Wood  
Paper  
Textiles  
Flammable liquids



**Don't use on:**  
Live electrical equipment

For more information about minimising fire risk to your property, call Latham's Steel Security Doorsets today on +44 (0) 1384 220 050 or [contact us online](#).