

Quick guide

NZS 4503:2005

Match the extinguisher to what's most likely to burn. Every extinguisher label shows the fire classes it's rated for, for example **2A:40B:E**. The higher the number, the bigger the fire it can handle.

TYPE	A Wood, paper & plastics	B Flammable liquids	C Flammable gases	E Live electrical	F Cooking oils & fats	NOTES
 Powder ABE WHITE BAND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	Best all-rounder for most workplaces and vehicles. The powder cuts visibility and can damage electronics.
 Carbon dioxide CO ₂ · BLACK BAND	—	—	✗	✓	—	Best for switchboards and electrical gear, and leaves no mess. Small fires only, not outdoors. Don't hold the horn, it freezes.
 Water ALL RED	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Wood, paper and fabric only. Dangerous on flammable liquids, electrical and cooking oil fires.
 Foam BLUE BAND	✓	✓	✗	✗	—	Wood, paper and flammable liquids. Dangerous on live electrical equipment.
 Wet chemical OATMEAL BAND	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	For commercial kitchens and deep fryers. Turn the power or gas off first. Dangerous on electrical.
 Fire blanket	✗	✗	✗	✗	—	Small pan fires: heat off, cover fully, leave until cool. Also for burning clothing. Replace after use.
 Fire hose reel	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	Continuous water for wood, paper and fabric. Keep a clear path between you and the exit.

✓ Suitable
— Limited small fires only, not the best choice
✗ Do not use won't work, or is dangerous

Class D (burning metals such as magnesium or sodium) needs a special-purpose extinguisher. Get specialist advice.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

E-bikes, scooters, power tools, laptops and phones. A battery fire can flare up again after the flames are out.

Smoking or burning: get out, close the door behind you if it's safe, and call 111.

Only overheating: unplug it and, if it's safe, move it outside away from anything that burns. Small devices can go into a bucket of water.

BEFORE YOU FIGHT A FIRE

- 1 Raise the alarm and call 111 first.
- 2 Only tackle it if it's small, you've been trained, and you have the right extinguisher.
- 3 Keep the exit behind you. If it isn't going out, get out and shut the door.

P.A.S.S. Pull the pin, Aim at the base of the fire, Squeeze the handle, Sweep side to side.

WHO NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT?

If there's fire-fighting equipment in your workplace or vehicles, the business (PCBU) must make sure staff are trained to use it as part of the workplace emergency plan (Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; General Risk and Workplace Management Regulations 2016, reg 14). Selecting, locating and servicing the equipment is covered by **NZS 4503:2005** Hand operated fire-fighting equipment.

Don't want to run the training yourself?

Call Ultrafire and we'll run a hands-on extinguisher session with your staff.

0800 88 77 99

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