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Over 90% of Homes do not have Enough Fire Extinguishers

It is estimated that over 90% of homes do not have enough fire extinguishers, many not even having one. A lot of people are just not aware of the risks of not having one.

Of all of the easy and inexpensive things to do in a home to make it safer, people commonly overlook the need for an adequate number of fire extinguishers, or even having just one. But with over 2 million fires occurring every year in the US, it is so very important to selecting the right time, having them in the right places, and knowing how to properly use and maintain them.

The recommendations for fire extinguishers include:

- **Selection** – As there are a variety of different materials that can catch fire, it is recommended that you select Class A-B-C fire extinguishers that can tackle any fire. The classes of fire sources include:
 - **Class A** – Ordinary combustibles, including paper, wood, cardboard, fabrics and most plastics.
 - **Class B** – Flammable or combustible liquids, such as gasoline, kerosene, grease and oil
 - **Class C** – Electrical Equipment.
- **Location** – There should be a fire extinguisher on each level of the home and in the garage. The most important places for these inside a home are the kitchen, laundry room, and the utility room. And don't forget putting one in each of your vehicles.
- **Where Not To Put Them** – It is important that they are not placed in an area where it will be difficult to locate them quickly or possibly put you at risk. Don't put them in a closet that may be too far from a fire. Also don't put one directly under a stove as the fire may prevent you from getting safely to the extinguisher.
- **Mounting** – It is important that you physically mount the fire extinguishers to a wall or inside a kitchen or laundry cabinet. Otherwise, they may get accidentally moved, making it difficult to quickly find the extinguisher. When mounting one in the garage, keep it close to the door leading to the home.
- **Maintenance / Replacement** – For non-rechargeable fire extinguishers, all you need to do is to annually check the location of the pressure needle every year when you do your smoke and carbon monoxide detector maintenance. Also, non-rechargeable fire extinguishers need to be replaced every 12 years. The dry chemical agent inside the extinguisher degrades over time.
- **Use In A Fire** – If the fire is relatively small, you can try to use a fire extinguisher, but if it appears too big, get out. Make certain that when using a fire extinguisher that you are far enough away to prevent you from getting injured. And remember that the fire extinguisher will only last 10-20 seconds, so make certain that you have a way out if you can't put out the fire. There is a simple acronym for using fire extinguishers. It is called "**PASS**:"
 - **Pull** – Pull the pin.
 - **Aim** – Aim at the base of the fire, not in the flames.
 - **Squeeze** – Squeeze the trigger.
 - **Sweep** – Sweep side to side at the base of the flames.
- **Teach Everyone** – Take time to instruct everyone in your family in the safe way to use a fire extinguisher, before you need to use it.



The unfortunate thing is like most other hazards in a home, most people just don't think it will happen to them, and/or they are just not aware of the possibility, often with very tragic consequences. Taking a little time to do purchase and install fire extinguishers can go a long way to keeping your family safe.

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