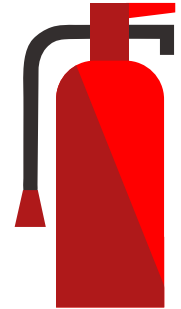


Fire Extinguishers

Hot tips for fire hoses and extinguishers

It's worth making sure all your fire extinguishers and hoses come with the standard code of good practice – namely New Zealand Standard NZS 4503. They should also to be installed and maintained by certified professionals like those in the Fire Protection Association of New Zealand (you can find a list here: www.fireprotection.org.nz). Ask them about training for building occupants or fire wardens too.



Reel in the risks

Hose reels offer the simplest and most effective form of protection as they're theoretically unlimited in their supply of mains water. As you'd imagine, hose reels should be located so that the hose reel nozzle can easily reach all parts of your building. You may need more than one depending on the size of your building. A word of warning though – don't use water on electrical equipment like plant or building services – you could get an electric shock.

What size – and where?

Fire extinguishers come in lots of sizes and ratings for different kinds of incidents, so it's essential you do a little bit of homework to make sure yours is right for the job. Location is also essential. All hose reels and extinguishers should be easy to spot, and even easier to access – and where not, they should have good signage to identify their location. Basic monthly checks are a great idea to make sure they're:

- In the right place, properly signed
- Not activated or damaged
- Clearly labelled with instructions
- Visible and accessible (with maintenance tags showing)
- Showing green on the pressure gauge (if fitted).



On-the-go extinguishing

Portable fire extinguishers are a great front-line tool. But they offer limited capacity. Their size and type also vary, so you'll need to make sure you check BEFORE you use them. They should be placed in locations in line with NZS 4503.

There are lots of types available, and we've detailed the most common ones here:

Type of fire extinguisher	Wood, paper, plastic (Class A)	Flammable liquids (Class B)	Flammable gases (Class C)	Electrically energized equipment (Class E)	Cooking oils and fats (Class F)	Combustible metals e.g. sodium, magnesium (Class D)
Water	✓✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Wet Chemical	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓✓	✗
Foam	✓	✓✓	✗	✗	LTD	✗
ABE Powder	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✗	✗
BE Powder	✗	✓✓	✓	✓	LTD	✗
Carbon Dioxide	LTD	LTD	LTD	✓✓	LTD	✗

Key	Description
✓✓	Most effective for these materials/substances and fire class
✓	Effective for these materials/substances and fire class
LTD	Not the extinguishing agent of choice but had limited effectiveness
✗	Not effective and can be dangerous if used for these materials/substances and fire class

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