**Basic types of fire extinguishers**

The two most common types of extinguishers, pressurized dry chemical and [carbon dioxide](http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/carbondioxide.html) extinguishers:





Knowing what fire your fire extinguisher can handle is important. There are 5 types of fire extinguishers that match the fire class:

1. **Class A** fires are ordinary materials like burning paper, lumber, cardboard, plastics etc.
2. **Class B** fires involve [**flammable**](http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/flammable.html) or [**combustible**](http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/combustible.html)**liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, and common**[**organic**](http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/organic.html)[**solvents**](http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/solvent.html) used in the laboratory.
3. **Class C** fires involve **energized electrical equipment**, such as appliances, switches, panel boxes, power tools, [hot plates](http://www.ilpi.com/inorganic/glassware/heatsources.html) and stirrers. Water can be a dangerous extinguishing medium for class C fires because of the risk of electrical shock unless a specialized water mist extinguisher is used.
4. **Class D** fires involve **combustible metals, such as magnesium, titanium,**[**potassium and sodium**](http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/alkalimetal.html) as well as [pyrophoric](http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/pyrophoric.html) [organometallic](http://www.ilpi.com/organomet/index.html) reagents such as alkyllithiums, Grignards and diethylzinc. These materials burn at high temperatures and will [react violently with water](http://www.ilpi.com/msds/ref/waterreactive.html), air, and/or other chemicals. Handle with care.
5. **Class K** fires are **kitchen fires.** This class was added to the portable extinguishers Standard 10 in 1998.

There are both dry chemical and Carbon dioxide (CO2). Dry chemical are useful on all fires but leaves a residue that can damage electrical equipment. So, for electrical equipment (Computers, Servers, etc.) CO2 extinguishers are better suited.



**“The real act of discovery is not in finding new lands, but in seeing with new eyes”** Marcel Proust