



Fire Extinguishers

A Factsheet on Requirements for Rental Properties

Fires can be frightening, but what's even more frightening is not being prepared for them. With just a little training, you can become better equipped to deal with a fire should one ever start in your apartment.

Types of Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are rated by the type of fire they can put out. It is important to choose the proper fire extinguisher for each fire. Fire extinguishers are labeled with letters and/or pictures to indicate the type of fire on which the extinguisher is effective.

Ordinary Combustibles Fire

A paper, wood, plastics, fabric, rubber, trash

Flammable Liquids Fire

B gasoline, oil, grease, some paints and solvents

Electrical Fire

C energized electrical equipment; appliances, computers, circuit breakers, wiring

A combination **ABC Dry Chemical** extinguisher can be used on more than one type of fire, and is a good choice for home use.

Remember the P.A.S.S. Word

There are four basic steps to using a fire extinguisher.

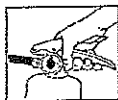


Pull

Place the extinguisher on the floor. Hold it by the tank (pressure on the handle could pinch the pin). Pull the pin straight out

Aim

Start 10 feet back from the fire. Aim at the base of the fire.



Squeeze

Squeeze the lever on the fire extinguisher.

Sweep

Sweep from side to side, moving in slowly until the fire is out.

Get Out

If the fire gets bigger, close the door and evacuate.

Be Prepared

Training and practice are the best ways to prepare for emergencies. Make certain you know the P.A.S.S. system and understand how to safely use a fire extinguisher before you ever need to.

- Don't force yourself to fight a fire that makes you uncomfortable or puts you at risk.
- Always let someone know and make certain 911 has been called before using an extinguisher on a fire.
- Fire extinguishers are small quick fixes. If you are unable to put out the fire with one extinguisher, leave and close the door behind you.
- A fire involving any portion of building structure is too big for a portable fire extinguisher. While using a fire extinguisher stay low, the smoke is filled with carbon monoxide and many other toxic gases.
- Don't let the fire come between you and your exit. Keep your back to the exit and the fire in front of you.

For More Information Contact:
Gwinnett County Fire and
Emergency Services
678-518-4850 request line
fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com