

Quick Reference Chart:

Fire Extinguisher Types, Colours and Uses in Australia

FireRescue Training • Study support only

General information only — not accredited training, legal advice or a replacement for workplace procedures.



Life safety comes first

Raise the alarm, help people evacuate and call Triple Zero (000). Only use an extinguisher if the fire is small, the correct extinguisher is available and you have a safe exit behind you.

EMERGENCY

CALL



000

BAND COLOUR	EXTINGUISHER TYPE	SUITABLE FOR	AVOID
 All red	Water	Class A	Electrical, flammable liquids, cooking oils
 Blue band	Foam	Class A and Class B	Electrical unless label says suitable
 White band	Dry chemical powder (ABE or BE)	ABE or BE — check label	Can reduce visibility and damage equipment
 Black band	Carbon dioxide (CO₂)	Class B and electrical	Limited cooling — watch for re-ignition
 Yellow band	Vaporising liquid	Specialist uses — check label	Do not confuse with wet chemical
 Oatmeal band	Wet chemical	Class F and some Class A	Mainly for cooking oils and fats — check label

Australian fire classes



Wood, paper, cloth, plastics



Petrol, paint, solvents



LPG and other gases



Combustible metals



Electrical equipment involved



Cooking oils and fats

Before you use one



1 Raise the alarm



2 Identify the fuel



3 Check the label



4 Keep an exit behind you



5 Leave if the fire grows

PASS — Use the steps



Pull the pin



Aim at the base



Squeeze the handles



Sweep side to side



Always read the extinguisher label. Australian colour systems differ from some overseas guides.

www.firerescue.com.au