



Home Fire Extinguisher Maintenance & Inspection



Take a look at these important notes on fire extinguisher maintenance procedures to help ensure that your fire extinguishers are charged and ready to go at a moment's notice.

How Often Should Fire Extinguishers Be Inspected?

Monthly, have a fire extinguisher inspection log, you'll get in the habit of verifying that your fire extinguishers and smoke alarms are in good working order. Set a monthly reminder in your phone's calendar to check in on them to ensure they're working. Always following manufacturer's recommendations.



6 STEPS TO INSPECTING YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER



Step 1: Ensure You Have Easy Access

Combating any fire is the ability to respond quickly. Affixing the fire extinguisher to the wall near potential fire sources (near furnaces, HVAC systems, water heaters, fireplaces, kitchen, garage) can aid in putting out a small fire before it's out of control.

Step 2: Check the Fire Extinguisher Inspection Tag

There's a lot to look at when reviewing the condition of an extinguisher, and a great way to keep tabs on its upkeep is by reviewing the inspection tag. This tag will usually be hanging around the neck of the extinguisher, if it comes with one. If not, tie a small piece of cardboard onto the extinguisher and write your notes on that.

Step 3: Gauge the Pressure

If the extinguisher's not optimally charged, it may not operate well — or at all

- The gauge's needle should only point to the green "charged" zone
- An overcharged extinguisher could be an explosion risk
- An undercharged extinguisher may not be able to emit enough fire retardant to fight a fire

Step 4: Confirm the Hose and Pin Are in Place

If you find cracks in the hose, or if it's too brittle to bend easily, get it replaced. Be sure the pin is securely tied to the extinguisher with a safety tether, if one was included originally. If the tether is missing, there's a chance that the extinguisher has been used and the canister may not be completely full.



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(continued) 6 Steps to Inspecting Your Fire Extinguisher

Step 5: Look for Physical Damage

When inspecting the extinguisher for damage, look for dents in the gas canister first. Scratches and divots in the paint can mean that it's suffered a fall and may be leaking slowly. Rust around the seal between the canister and the neck can be another symptom of trouble.

Step 6: Update the Inspection Tag

After you've reviewed the condition of the fire extinguisher, be sure to update the inspection tag with the date and any notes to keep an eye out for next month.

Do Fire Extinguishers Expire?

It may seem hard to justify, but if you've found a fire extinguisher has expired in your home, it's best to replace it promptly. There are good reasons to change out an expired extinguisher, but one key reason is that it may no longer perform reliably after its expiration date. Check the manufacturer's website for details on locating the fire extinguishers expiration date.



Most fire extinguishers are comprised of:

- a cylindrical tank containing an extinguishing agent and a propellant
- a release system comprised of a squeeze handle, a valve assembly, and a release lever
- a safety mechanism comprised of a tamper seal and a pull pin
- a hose for directing the extinguishing agent

*Make Sure Your Home Is Protected from Fire Damage
Keeping your home safe is an important part of protecting your family and your investment.*



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