

Portable Fire Blankets and Extinguishers

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Safety & First Aid



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Fire safety equipment in workshops includes extinguishers matched to the fire classes present and fire blankets for smothering small fires or wrapping around a person whose clothing is alight. They are required by law, must be serviced, and every student should know where they are.

Key Features

- Dry powder, CO2 and foam extinguishers by class
- Fire blankets in wall-mounted quick-release cases
- Clear signage and monthly visual checks
- Wall brackets at exits and hazard zones
- Labels with pictograms for each fire class

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Put out small fires from oil, electrics or materials
- Smother pan and resin fires with a blanket
- Protect a person whose clothes are burning
- Support the workshop fire plan and drills

Safe Operation

1. Raise the alarm and send someone to call for help
2. Pull the pin, aim at the base and sweep side to side
3. For a blanket, cover the fire fully and leave it to smother
4. Attack small fires only - leave if it grows
5. Evacuate to the assembly point when told

SAFETY NOTES

- Never use water on electrical or oil fires
- Do not re-enter a burning room for equipment
- Check that extinguishers are easily reachable
- Keep exits and extinguishers clear at all times
- Students only act under staff direction in a real fire

Maintenance & Consumables

- Monthly visual checks of pressure gauges and seals
- Annual service by a certified company
- Replace extinguishers after any use even if small
- Check blanket seals and expiry dates
- Log all checks in the fire log book

Specification & Buying Notes

Kit the workshop with the class of extinguishers for the risks present (foam for wood/paper, CO2 or powder for electrical). Mount them on brackets with signage and provide a fire blanket per hot-work bench.