



## How to clean up after a fire extinguisher discharge

In case of fire, fire extinguishers can be used to extinguish the fire and rescue you from a disastrous result. Residues from fire extinguishers? Well this means that you have used a fire extinguisher and successfully extinguished fire. Well done!

The most common and versatile type of fire extinguisher for domestic and professional use is **DRY POWDER** fire extinguisher. This type can be used for almost any kind of fire:

- Class A (flammable solids like wood, paper, cloth etc)
- Class B (flammable liquids like petrol, diesel etc)
- Class C (flammable gases like LPG gas)
- Electrical Fires

**Dry powder / chemical extinguishers** work by smothering the fire. When you put a layer of powder on the fire, you cut the fuel off from the oxygen around it, and the fire goes out. However it will make a huge mess! How do you clean up the mess?

Here are some helpful tips.

- 1) Wear personal protective, dust mask, gloves, goggles. The chemicals in a powder fire extinguisher can be an irritant to lungs, eyes and throat.
- 2) Use a vacuum cleaner to clean up the powder residue, or a brush to sweep it away if you do not have a vacuum cleaner.
- 3) Place all the powder from the vacuum cleaner or that has been swept up into a plastic bag and seal it. Dispose of this bag in the usual waste bin.
- 4) Use a damp cloth to clean any residue of powder off furnishings, do not use copious amounts of water. There is a risk that any residue left may start to eat away at soft furnishings. Curtains should be washed if possible.

**Co2 fire extinguishers are clean gas and need no cleaning after a discharge. You just need to ventilate the area.**

**For The rest types of fire extinguishers, Foam, Water & Wet Chemical fire extinguishers follow the below tips.**

1. Wear personal protective, dust mask, waterproof gloves & goggles.
2. Soak up the foam or liquid from the wet chemical or water extinguisher with either paper towels or old towels that can be thrown away
3. Wash the area thoroughly with water and use paper towels or an old towel to soak up any excess
4. Place all towels into a plastic bag and seal before throwing it away into the usual waste bin