



King County

Department of Development and Environmental Services

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TYPE "K" FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Type "K" has been added to the Underwriter's Laboratories fire extinguisher classifications. The current UL classifications are as follows:

- A – Ordinary Combustibles
- B – Flammable Liquids (grease is no longer included)
- C – Electrical
- D – Combustible Metals
- K – Kitchen (restaurant deep fat fryers)**

Unlike other classifications, the "K" fire extinguisher has no rating. Extinguishers having this classification are tested to the UL 300 test standard and are approved for use on restaurant size deep fat fryers. The test requires a 2-minute pre-burn before discharge and the extinguisher must keep the fire out for 20 minutes without re-ignition. They are not approved for commercial manufacturing processes, such as potato chips, and they have limited approval for use on flammable liquid fires. The "K" extinguisher is recognized in the 2002 Edition of the NFPA Standard #10, which requires kitchen fire extinguishers to have a "K" classification. The "K" extinguisher comes in 1½ gallon and 2½ gallon sizes. The 1½ gallon size is to be used for deep fat fryers using combustible cooking media. The 2½ gallon size is to be used for solid burning fuel cookers (such as a Bar B-Q with animal fat running on to the fuel source), that do not have sprinkler protection. Solid fuel burning cookers must be under separate hoods.

Portable Fire Extinguishers:

IFC 904.11.5 Commercial cooking equipment. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided within a 30-foot (9144mm) travel distance of commercial-type cooking equipment. Cooking equipment involving vegetable or animal oils and fats shall be protected by a Class K rated portable extinguisher.

IFC 906.4 Cooking grease fires. Fire extinguishers provided for the protection of cooking grease fires shall be of an approved type compatible with the automatic fire-extinguishing system agent and in accordance with Section 904.11.5.