



## FIRE EXTINGUISHER LOCATION AND PLACEMENT

Code officials are charged with ensuring that occupancies are properly outfitted with fire extinguishers and that they are placed in the right locations. This resource identifies which occupancies require extinguishers and where they should be placed within them. It also outlines related fire extinguisher requirements in NFPA® 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers* (2022).

### Occupancy Requirements

Fire extinguishers **are required** in the following occupancy types:

Ambulatory health care	Hotel and dormitory	Health care
Apartments	Industrial	Educational
Assemblies	Lodging and rooming	Storage
Businesses	Mercantile	Detention and correctional
Day care	Occupancies in special structures	Residential board and care

Fire extinguishers **are not required** in one- and two-family dwellings. For more information on occupancy requirements, see Table 13.6.1.2 of NFPA 1, *Fire Code* (2021).

### Where and How Should Extinguishers Be Located?

Fire extinguishers that are placed correctly can be accessed more quickly to help control a fire until the fire department arrives. Fire extinguishers are not intended to be a substitute for evacuating the building safely and quickly. Two key factors for locating extinguishers are that they should be accessible and visible.

#### Accessible

Extinguishers should be placed where they are readily accessible in the event of a fire, which typically includes normal paths of travel.

#### Visible

If visual obstructions cannot be avoided, then arrows, lights, or signs are needed to help indicate where a fire extinguisher is located.

If extinguisher weighs  
**more than 40 lb (18.14 kg) ...**

- ▶ **Top of extinguisher** cannot be more than **3.5 ft (1.07 m)** from the ground
- ▶ **Bottom of extinguisher** must be at least **4 in. (102 mm)** off the ground



If extinguisher weighs  
**less than 40 lb (18.14 kg) ...**

- ▶ **Top of extinguisher** cannot be more than **5 ft (1.53 m)** from the ground
- ▶ **Bottom of extinguisher** must be at least **4 in. (102 mm)** off the ground

**In both cases, this includes extinguishers in cabinets, but it does not include wheeled extinguishers.**