

We understand your passion and the investment you have made in your classic or sports car, and that is why we offer a wide selection of fire extinguishers for your consideration. Please give us a call, and we can assist you in the selection of the extinguisher for your automobile or shop and recommend the best solution to suit your application.

Understanding what types of extinguishers exist to protect your investment can be broken down into a couple of basic styles. ABC or BC dry chemical or Clean Agents as in Halotron or CO2. Understanding the types of fires you may be facing and how the extinguisher responds to these fires can start you on your way to selecting the right one for your application. All of the above extinguishers will work with the basic classes of a fire listed below.

**Class A**- Fires involving ordinary combustible materials such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber and many plastics.

**Class B**- Fires involving flammable liquids, combustible liquids, petroleum grease, tars, oil based paints, solvents, lacquers, alcohols and flammable gasses.

**Class C**- Fires that involve energized electrical equipment.

As you can see in the above descriptions, your classic or sports car, garage or shop and the process of restoring or owning these cars is covered in each of the classes of a fire listed above.

Now for the selecting the extinguisher for your application, we will cover a few choices available to you. First, the dry chemical extinguishers are the most economical when it comes to the initial cost to purchase.

**ABC dry chemical** extinguishers use a powder called “Mono Ammonium Phosphate” and although it works fantastic in the 3 main classes of fire it will leave a cleanup that you will never forget. Add to the fact that it will do damage to your paint, glass, electronics/electrical and let us not think of our engines ingesting this while they are running.

**BC Standard Powder** extinguishers use a powder called “Sodium Bicarbonate” the active ingredient in baking soda. They work great on the B & C classes of fires but without the harmful effects of the ABC extinguishers. Keep in mind it is still a powder and there will be a cleanup to do.

The Halotron Clean agent extinguishers are considerably more expensive initially, but when you factor in the damage and time required to clean up after discharging the dry chemical units they are by far the most cost effective solution.

**Halotron Clean Agent** extinguishers get their name from the liquid contained in the cylinder. It is discharged as a rapidly evaporating liquid and leaves you without the harmful side effects commonly associated with the ABC & BC extinguishers. They are the direct replacement for the Halon extinguishers and are extremely effective in class B & C fires in the smaller sized extinguishers but the larger ones due to their size gain the “A” class rating. Widely used in the airline industry for obvious reasons.

**CO2** extinguishers are part of the clean agent family. The CO2 is a liquid under high pressure in the cylinder, which turns back into a gas when discharged. They are only rated for B & C classes of fires and are usually too large and bulky for vehicle application but are commonly found in shops and data centers. There is no clean up with the CO2 units, but keep in mind that CO2 displaces oxygen and can cause death if used in enclosed areas.

In most show circuits, it is now required that you have some sort of extinguisher with your car to allow your participation—some shows even give extra points just for having one. Having an extinguisher is a great start, now let us see if it is a good one. A few things to check every month are listed below;

Gauge in the green?

Pull Pin and safety seal in place?

Are there any dents or severe gouges/scratches on the cylinder?

Is there any damage to the labels and can you read the directions?

Is the extinguisher fully accessible and mounted?

These are just a few items to keep in mind not only for your automobile but also for your home or shop. A fire doubles in size every minute, so when you go to grab that taken-for-granted extinguisher and it's dead or (not to be found) then the

cost of an extinguisher will not seem too high as compared to the “cost of the” loss.

Let us not speak of a fire on your Classic or Sports Car but these occurrences do happen and when they do, will you be covered for your insurance claim? Check your policy, ask your agent and be sure you have a good, ready to use extinguisher with you at all times, in case a fire breaks out. It has been known to happen where a claim has been denied on a technicality because an extinguisher was not available.

Ask yourself “**Are you Protected?**”

[www.veteransfire.com](http://www.veteransfire.com) (PA)