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Dear Friend,

Each month, BOWA Home Advisor provides you with important tips on how to improve and protect your home's value. We hope the following is helpful.



Do you have the proper fire extinguisher handy?

While you never want to use them, it's wise to have several fire extinguishers conveniently placed throughout your home. Used correctly, the proper fire extinguisher just may save your life, family and home.

CHOOSING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Fire extinguishers are labeled according to the type of fire for which they can be used effectively. Using the wrong type of extinguisher can be extremely dangerous and actually make matters worse.

When choosing an extinguisher, consider the following:

- The extinguisher should be approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL.com) or Factory Mutual (FMglobal.com).
- The letters A, B and C designate the fire class (es) for which the extinguisher is intended. Class A extinguishers put out fires fueled by wood, paper, cloth, rubber and most plastics. Class Bs extinguish flammable liquids, such as gasoline, oil and grease. Class Cs are for wiring, appliance and electrical fires. Combination units are also available and often a wise choice.
- Buy the most suitable extinguisher for each room or area of your house. At a minimum, it's best to keep one in the garage and another in the kitchen.
- Check the extinguisher's number rating. The higher the number, the larger the fire the extinguisher can put out.
- Choose from disposable or rechargeable models. Disposable units (\$10 to \$20) are typically made of plastic and lose pressure after about 12 years. Rechargeable extinguishers (up to \$50) must be refilled after each use and when they lose pressure.

With this in mind, a good fire extinguisher to have near a residential kitchen is a Dry Chemical ABC, size 2-A:10-BC. You might also opt for Class A units for the living room area and near the bedrooms and Class ABC units for the basement and garage. Each extinguisher should be installed in plain view, near an escape route and away from potential

fire hazards, such as heating appliances.

UNDERSTANDING PROPER USAGE

Just as important as having the right fire extinguisher is ensuring that your family knows when and how to use it safely. It is essential that each responsible family member be trained on proper usage of the chosen extinguisher before the need arises. Also, it's important to recognize the limits of a residential fire extinguisher. If you have the slightest doubt about whether or not to fight the fire - DON'T. Instead, exit your home immediately, call "911" for your local fire department and let the professionals do their jobs.

If you would like more information on this topic or if there are other ways we can be of service, please contact [BOWA Builders](#).

Regards.



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