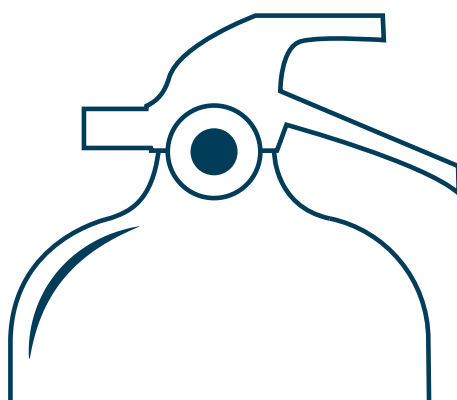


**Guidance
Note**



Fire Industry Association



**Buying a Fire Extinguisher
from the Internet?**

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY?

IS IT REALLY CHEAPER?

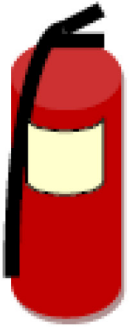
READ ON, IT IS VERY INTERESTING!

Home > Resources > EShop > Shopping Cart >

Shopping Cart

E-Shop Item

Product	Price
9ltr Water Fire Extinguisher	£27.75 ex vat



Shipping Cost: £10.00

Quantity: [Add to Cart](#)

Optional extras

Pre delivery inspection	£3.50
Installation & commissioning	£9.95*

*A one off call out charge of £23.75 applies

[Continue shopping](#)

At this stage it looks very competitive, much less than service providers!

But read on to see the REAL cost...

+ Add delivery charges

'You pay only £10.00 + VAT shipping charges, no matter how many items you order. Shipping is FREE for orders over £200! Please note that larger shipments may be delivered via pallet service (3-5 days).

Orders are shipped via courier on a next working day delivery service, when the order is made before 1pm.'

+ Add installation and certification

'We offer a nationwide cover of approved fire extinguisher service technicians. Buy your fire extinguishers and fire blankets online from us, with the peace of mind that we can take care of everything from the delivery of your fire extinguishers to the installation, initial service, labelling and certification. This service is optional. Alternatively, you can buy the fire extinguishers and fire blankets from us and just have them delivered without any further service. However, many companies and organisations want us to take care of the initial installation and certification. Please find below our competitive service costs. Installation is carried out within 14 days of order.'

Call-out charge @ £23.75

Fire extinguisher installation, initial service, labelling and certification, per extinguisher @ £9.95

REAL cost for purchasing extinguisher

1 x 9 litre fire extinguisher

Delivery charge **£10.00**

Call out charge **£23.75**

Installation, inspection, labelling and certification **£9.95**

Purchase Cost £71.45

+ 20% VAT

Additional costs

Does the internet supplier have liability insurance? **Cost unknown**
(Who do you claim from if it all goes wrong?)

Does supplier have efficacy insurance cover? **Cost unknown**
(Efficacy covers failure to perform)

Is installation/commissioning done by sub contract? **Cost unknown**
(In 95% of cases the answer is yes)

Have you seen sub contractor liability insurance? **Cost unknown**

Is installation/commissioning company ISO registered? **Cost unknown**

Is installation/commissioning company BAFE approved? **Cost unknown**

Have you got any proof of competency for the internet supplier? **Cost unknown**

Have you got any proof of competency for the sub-contractor? **Cost unknown**

Many internet sites say the product can be substituted **Cost unknown**

Have you considered Health & Safety implications? **Cost unknown**
(Do they have Health & Safety Policy, Risk Assessments and Method Statements?)

Do you get a five-year product guarantee? **Cost unknown**

Who will take your old ones away and dispose of them?

Do they have a waste carriers licence?

You are liable for their safe and legal disposal and the fines are often massive under environmental legislation. Up to £1000 per cylinder.

So what is the true cost of purchase?

You will really only find the true cost of buying from a non-proven source such as the internet or catalogue, when the equipment is needed in a real fire situation. Are you certain it will operate when needed? Just like the brakes on your car when something happens in front of you and you need to stop FAST.

Often the first thing you see when browsing the internet is a same or similar product to one available through your service provider. These products can often be substituted by the selling company – how will you know?

Fire authorities will investigate fires and will prosecute for breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Proof of competency for the organisation supplying and maintaining your fire fighting equipment will need to be shown as part of the investigation.

Insurance companies investigate all claims and will certainly want to see proof of competency for the organisation supplying and maintaining your fire fighting equipment. If you cannot prove that you have complied with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which requires you to ensure the competence of service and product providers, and have at least met the recognised standard codes of practice for provision of fire fighting equipment, you may have a difficulty in getting a full insurance payment. What will that mean to you and your business?

Should you have a small fire and attempt to put it out using a portable fire extinguisher which fails to operate, who will you make a claim against for the failure?

Purchasing from a proven source, third party accredited and BAFE approved, with appropriate liability and efficacy insurances, employing trained and qualified personnel with appropriate competency, ongoing training and audited for quality of service delivery, is the only way to ensure you will be purchasing a quality product, delivered commissioned and installed by a competent technician. This ensures compliance for provision of portable fire fighting equipment under the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Having purchased new extinguishers, you may have old extinguishers that need to be removed from site; they will need to be disposed of safely and legally and unless the organisation taking them away is a registered waste carrier, and uses a registered waste disposal contractor to ensure they are disposed of in accordance with regulations, you will both be in breach of the law and liable to prosecution under the Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 or The Groundwater Regulations 1998.

DISCLAIMER

The information set out in this document is believed to be correct in the light of information currently available but it is not guaranteed and neither the Fire Industry Association nor its officers can accept any responsibility in respect of the contents or any events arising from use of the information contained within this document.



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