

PROTECTING YOUR HOME



Garden in islands. Plant these island beds away from the home as this helps prevent the spread of fire.



Clearly numbering your house is very important.



Gutters:
Metal roof gutters do not ignite, only the leaf material that accumulates in them. This is why keeping them clean is so important. Vinyl roof gutters can melt when the debris is ignited and flaming gutters can fall from the roof edge and land next to the house, or transfer flames to the roof structure. Keep all gutters free of leaves.

Roof Maintenance:
Keep roofs clean from leaf litter. Remove all tree limbs within 3m of the chimney, or that overhang the roof.

Fireplace Chimneys:
Remove debris that may accumulate at roof-to-wall joints. Embers from a fireplace can exit the chimney and smoulder in debris. To prevent this, install a spark arrestor on the chimney.



Windows:
Multi-paned tempered glass can help reduce the risk of fracture or collapsing in a wildfire.

Eaves:
Boxed eaves reduce the entry of embers.

Air Vents:
All air vents should have a fine corrosion-resistant metal screening.



Trim lower tree limbs to reduce ladder fuels.

Carpports
Remove flammable items that are stored under carports.

Garages
Be sure the door is tight fitting, so embers cannot slide under the door or in from the sides. If possible, choose a metal door.

Crawl Spaces
Remove combustible materials from open spaces and under decks. Install fine metal screening on vents.

Fencing
Use non-flammable fencing material (metal or masonry). Wooden fences attached to the home can carry flames directly to the house.

Skylights
Remove debris next to and on skylights. Glass is a better option than plastic or fiberglass.

Sliding Glass Doors
Choose double-pane tempered glass. Consider fireproof shutters to protect large windows and glass doors from radiant heat.



When making an open fire, keep water handy and ensure that the fire is extinguished. If the weather is hot and windy, avoid making any open fire.

Firewood and flammable materials should not be stored next to the house.



Decks and Verandas:
Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks and verandas, and between deck board joints. Never store flammable materials underneath elevated decks or verandas.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AROUND YOUR HOME

FIRESCAPING YOUR GARDEN

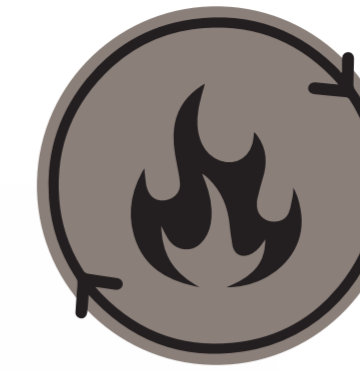
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios and decks.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed and keep well-watered and green.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so that a surface fire cannot reach the crowns.
- Space trees to have a minimum of 6m between crowns, with more distance if the property is sloped.
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than 3m to the edge of the structure.
- Trees and shrubs should be limited to small clusters of a few each, to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.
- Make sure that plants are healthy. If water is in short supply, garden with succulents.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Move vehicles into a non-combustible area (gravel or concrete) and roll up all windows.
- When wildfire threat is high and warnings are received, move patio/deck furniture, cushions, doormats and potted plants indoors, or as far away from the home, shed and carport as possible.
- Place wooden swings and playsets as far as possible from the home.
- Use rubber doormats instead of those manufactured with natural fiber materials.
- Select fire resistant options for patio furniture.
- Close and protect home openings, including attic and basement doors and vents, windows, garage and pet doors, to prevent embers from gaining access to the home.
- Connect garden hoses, fill pools, hot tubs, garbage cans or other large containers with water and place ladders outdoors. Firefighters may need to use hoses, ladders and water sources to extinguish spot fires.
- Addresses should be visible from the road.
- Non-flammable materials should be cleared around the perimeter of the home and kept free of ground litter or debris. Concrete, stone or gravel walkways are great additions to the Immediate Zone.
- Wood mulch products should be replaced with non-combustible mulch products such as crushed stone/gravel options.



RADIATION



CONVECTION



EMBERS / FIREBRANDS

A home's building materials, design and landscape play a significant role in the level of exposure that can be endured before ignition occurs from any of these sources.

WHY YOUR HOME IGNITES

EMBER ATTACKS AND FIREBRANDS:

Burning pieces of airborne wood and vegetation can be carried more than a kilometre through the wind and can cause spot fires and ignite homes, gardens and other flammable objects. They can also penetrate and smoulder in woodpiles, patio/deck items, vents and openings, roofs and debris filled gutters. Most home losses in a wildfire are from embers, not by direct contact with flames.

SURFACE FIRES:

These are typically small flames burn through grass and ground litter. They can reach houses, pergolas and decks if there is no interruption in the types of fuel sources. Flames touching a house, fence or deck can cause them to ignite.

CROWN FIRE:

Crown fires have large flames burning in the tops or canopies of trees. These large flames radiate heat that can ignite wood walls from up to 30m away. Other types of large flames can come from detached buildings, burning wood piles and ignited vehicles.

MAINTAINING YOUR FIREWISE GARDEN

Minimum horizontal clearance

SHRUBS

From the edge of one shrub to the edge of the next

Flat to mild slope (0% to 20% slope)

Two times (2x) the height of the shrub (two shrubs 0,5m high should be spaced 1m apart)

Mild to moderate slope (20% to 40% slope)

Four times (4x) the height of the shrub (two shrubs 0,5m high should be spaced 2m apart)



Moderate to steep slope (greater than 40% slope)

Six times (6x) the height of the shrub (two shrubs 0,5m high should be spaced 3m apart)

TREES

From the edge of one tree canopy to the edge of the next

Flat to mild slope (0% to 20% slope)

3 metres

Mild to moderate slope (20% to 40% slope)

6 metres



Moderate to steep slope (greater than 40% slope)

9 metres

Minimal vertical clearance

3x Height of shrub = minimum vertical clearance

Example: a 1,5m shrub is growing near a tree. $3 \times 1,5 = 4,5$ metres of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branches.

3x height of shrub to lowest branches of a tree.

Note: a grouping of vegetation may be treated as a single plant if the foliage of the grouping does not exceed 3 metres in width. For example, three individual shrubs growing in a cluster with a total foliage width of 2,5 metres can be "grouped" and considered as one plant.

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