

NON-COMBUSTIBLE ZONE / HOME

0 – 1.5 METRES

Preparing your home and yard as recommended can help your home survive a wildfire.

1 ROOF

Material

Fire-resistant or fire-retardant roofing is referred to as Class A, B or C rated roofing. Options include metal, asphalt, clay and composite rubber tiles. Untreated wood shakes create a dangerous combination of combustible material and crevices for embers or sparks to enter. Refer to manufacturer's guidelines to maintain the fire resistance of your roof.

Maintenance

Every inside corner of your roof is a place where debris and embers can collect. Regularly clean your roof of combustible materials.

2 CHIMNEY

A spark arrestor on your chimney will reduce the chance of sparks and embers escaping and starting fires.

3 GUTTERS

Regularly remove debris from your gutters, since sparks and embers can easily ignite these dry materials. Consider screening your gutters with metal mesh to reduce the amount of debris that can accumulate.

4 EAVES AND VENTS

While vents play an important role in removing moisture from attics, they create an opening for sparks and embers. Consider screening your vents with 3-millimetre wire mesh. Open eaves also create a surface that can be affected by embers and direct heat. Properly fitted soffits and fascia help reduce the risk of embers and heat reaching the wooden rafters of your home.

5 SIDING

Stucco, metal siding, brick/ concrete and fibre cement siding offer superior fire resistance. Logs and heavy timbers are still reasonably effective. Untreated wood and vinyl siding offer very little protection against wildfire.

6 WINDOWS

Tempered, thermal (double-paned) windows are recommended. Single-pane windows provide little resistance to heat from an advancing wildfire.

7 DOORS

All doors into your home should be fire rated and have a good seal. This is true for your garage doors as well as your entry doors.

8 DECKS

Embers and sparks can collect under these spaces. Enclose these areas. Sheath in the base of the decks, balconies and houses with fire-resistant material to reduce the risk of sparks and embers igniting your home.

9 OTHER

ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR HOME

Fence Lines

Wooden fences/boardwalks create a direct path from the fire to your home. Separating your house from a wooden fence with a metal gate can slow the advance of a fire. Remember to cut the grass along your fence line, since long, dry grass can ignite easily.

Sheds/Outbuildings

If these are within 10 metres of your home, give them the same FireSmart considerations as you do your home.



Check for other ignition points in and around your home. Look around your yard for other combustible materials. Consider how close you store combustible lawn furniture or deck storage boxes to your home.

