

Immediate Zone



Making the Most of Your Time

Home renovations can be costly and time-consuming. That's why FireSmart principles focus on what is realistic for you to achieve to limit the risk of wildland fire for your home. Integrate FireSmart into your long-term renovation plans and practice regular yard cleanup to reduce your risk.

Doors

All exterior doors should be constructed from non-combustible materials such as metal and be in good condition. Ensure weather stripping and door sweeps are tight and in good working order.

Windows

Tempered or multi-pane windows are recommended as single-pane windows provide little resistance to heat from a wildland fire. Cracked glass or damaged window seals also create a significant vulnerability to radiant heat, direct flames, strong winds, and window strikes.

Ground-To-Siding-Clearance

Siding is vulnerable when it ignites and when flames or embers get into the space behind it. With inadequate ground-to-siding clearance, accumulated embers can ignite combustible siding. A minimum of 15 cm (6 inches) of ground-to-siding non-combustible clearance is recommended.

Eaves and Vents

While vents are needed to maintain the function of a structure, they may create an opening for sparks and embers (firebrands) to enter. Install vents made of non-combustible material and retrofit them with 3mm metal mesh, or choose ASTM fire-rated vents. Never cover a dryer vent. Instead, ensure they are clear of debris and back-draft dampers are operating correctly. Properly fitted and maintained soffits and fascia material drastically reduce the chance of embers and heat entering the vulnerable interior of a structure's roof.

Other

Attachments to Your Home

Wooden fences, boardwalks, and landscape timbers can create a direct path for fire to follow up to your home. Separating wooden fences with a metal gate adjacent to your home and including non-combustible sections in landscape timbers and walkways can slow or even stop the spread of fire. Remember to cut grass along your fence, as long and dry grass easily ignites.

Sheds and Outbuildings

Sheds and outbuildings require the same FireSmart considerations as your home.

Roof

Material

A Class-A fire-rated roof offers the best protection. Metal, asphalt, clay, and composite rubber tiles are all good options. Untreated wood shakes are a poor option as they are combustible and have crevices for sparks or embers to enter.

Maintenance

Follow the manufacturers' guidelines to maintain the fire resistance of your roof. It is recommended to clean your roof of combustible materials (leaves, pine needles, branches, etc.) twice annually (spring and fall) and after significant storm events.

Siding

Stucco, metal, brick, concrete, and fiber cement siding offer superior fire resistance. Logs and heavy timbers are also reasonably resistant. Untreated wood and vinyl siding offers little protection against wildland fire.

Gutters

Regularly remove debris from your gutters, as sparks and embers can easily ignite these dry materials. When possible, replace vinyl or damaged gutters with a tight fitting, non-combustible variety.

Decks

1. Solid surface decks can be skirted or open if they are over a non-combustible surface. If open, limit under-deck storage to non-combustible items and clear debris regularly.
2. Slotted decks should not be skirted to allow for removal of materials that fall through deck slots. Slotted decks should be constructed over a non-combustible surface. Limit under deck storage to non-combustible items and clear debris regularly.

Chimney

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