

Firewood Shed Self-Assessment



10m to 30m

Intermediate Zone 1.5 m to 10 m

Immediate Zone Om to 1.5m

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Introduction

The state of your property and the immediate 30 m area around it play the most crucial role in determining if your home will ignite and suffer damage during a wildland fire. This area is commonly referred to as the "Home Ignition Zone" (HIZ). A properly maintained HIZ will significantly lower the intensity of the fire and its ability to spread. When residents collaborate as a community to establish interconnected HIZs, they can drastically reduce the risk of large-scale structure to structure ignition.

One crucial aspect of establishing a safer Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) is ensuring that firewood is stored properly. The ideal location for firewood storage is in an outbuilding that follow to FireSmart guidelines, detailed below. While the home is the primary focus of the HIZ, your firewood shed should also incorporate HIZ characteristics.

Use this guide to help you assess, retrofit, or build your firewood shed. Walk around your property and answer the following questions. Consider implementing the recommendations as you perform maintenance and renovations in each of the three Home Ignition Zones.



Immediate Zone

0 m to 1.5 m

The Immediate Zone should be a non-combustible area that starts at the shed and extends 1.5 m around the entire shed.



The Shed:

The shed is subject to various ignition vulnerabilities depending on the design, construction and materials used.

Move your firewood shed away from the house and into the extended zone (10 m - 30 m). Do not store items with fuel, such as Jerry cans, chainsaws, or other combustible fuels, inside the shed as they are highly combustible and can increase fire and safety risks.



1. Does the roof of your shed have acceptable fire-rated roofing material?



2. Is the roof clear of debris?



3. Are the vents non-combustible and screened?



4. Are the eaves enclosed?



Open eaves create vulnerabilities to embers and radiant heat. Consider enclosing eaves with properly fitted soffits and fascia to reduce the risk of embers and heat from reaching the wooden rafters of the shed.



5. Is the exterior siding ignition resistant?



Certain construction materials, such as vinyl siding, can melt under high temperatures, allowing fires to reach underlying wall components and penetrate the building's interior. Stucco, log, metal, brick/stone, concrete, and fiber cement siding offer superior fire resistance.

6. Is the exterior siding free of gaps, holes and other areas where embers can gather?



YES 🗌

Inspect the siding for areas where embers could accumulate or become lodged. Seal any holes and gaps in the exterior siding to prevent embers from igniting the structure.

7. Are the exterior walls protected with a minimum of 15 cm vertical non-combustible ground-to-siding clearance?



You can establish a non-combustible vertical ground-to-siding clearance by replacing at least 15 cm of combustible siding with non-combustible siding materials or flashing at the base of the wall. This helps minimize the risk of siding igniting due to ember accumulation near the structure's foundation.

8. Is this zone free of combustible materials and landscaping materials?



Regularly clear away combustible debris such as needles, leaves, and branches leaning against and around the 1.5 m perimeter of the shed. Ensure that all other combustible materials, including building materials, patio furniture, tires, recreational equipment, and vehicles, are stored in the Extended Zone or FireSmart-mitigated building. No materials such as jerry cans and saws should be stored in the firewood shed, as they contain highly combustible fuels that can increase fire and safety risks.



9. Are there any trees or tree branches in this zone?



10. Are there any combustible shrubs, grass, plants or other debris in this zone?





Intermediate Zone

Elements in the Intermediate Zone are managed so they don't transmit fire to the shed.



1. Are coniferous trees pruned to a height of 2 m?



A surface fire can climb trees quickly. Remove all coniferous branches within 2 m from the ground to help prevent surface fires from moving into the treetops.



2. Are coniferous trees spaced at least 3 m apart?



3. Is the lawn cut to a height of 10 cm or less?

YES 🗌

If NO 🖒



4. Is the yard free of combustible debris and materials?



Regularly remove accumulations of combustible debris like needles, leaves, and branches. Ensure that all combustible materials like wood piles, building materials, patio furniture, recreational vehicles, etc. are moved into the Extended Zone or a FireSmart structure.



Extended Zone

10 m to 30 m

The focus in the Extended Zone is not to eliminate the possibility of fire, but to reduce its intensity.



1. Are coniferous trees pruned to a height of 2 m?

YES 🗌

NO ⊏>



A surface fire can climb trees quickly. Remove all coniferous branches within at least 2 m of the ground. If the tree is less than 2 m tall consider removing it.



2. Are coniferous trees spaced at least 3 m apart?



3. Is there any combustible debris on the ground, such as fallen branches, dry grass, and needles?



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