

# HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

**SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT**

## HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches



- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create fuel breaks

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about how to protect your home and property visit [firewise.org](http://firewise.org).

Talk to your local forestry agency or fire department to learn more about the specific wildfire risk where you live.



**FIREWISE USA™**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

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**VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](http://FIREWISE.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS**

## HOW TO

# PREPARE YOUR HOME

## FOR WILDFIRES

**WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE**



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RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

**FIREWISE.ORG**

# WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

ORDER A REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS  
IN THE HOME IGNITION ZONE  
CHECKLIST/POSTER AT FIREWISE.ORG

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### 1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5' around the home; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30' and the **Extended Zone** 30 - 100'. Visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more details on the Home Ignition Zones.

### 2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and replace mulch in the Immediate Zone of 0 to 5 feet with non-combustible mulch products like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

## FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

### 3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

### 4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

### 5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

## BE PREPARED

### 6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12' wide with a vertical clearance of 15' for emergency vehicle access.

### 7. DISASTER PLAN

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay - don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

### 8. ANNUAL INSURANCE CHECK-UP

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



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