

MAKE YOUR PROPERTY FIRE SAFE

If you wait, it may be too late

How to prepare your home/yard in case of wildfire

1. Roof

Fire-resistant or fire-retardant roofing, including metal, asphalt, clay or composite rubber tiles.

Untreated wood shakes create a dangerous combination of combustible material and crevices for embers or sparks to enter.

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/embers escaping and starting a fire.

3. Gutters

Regularly remove debris, like leaves, from your gutters since sparks/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/vents

Consider screening your vents with 3 mm wire mesh. Properly-fitted soffits and fascia help reduce the risks 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 fire.

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 in your home and garage should be fire rated and have a good seal.

8. Decks

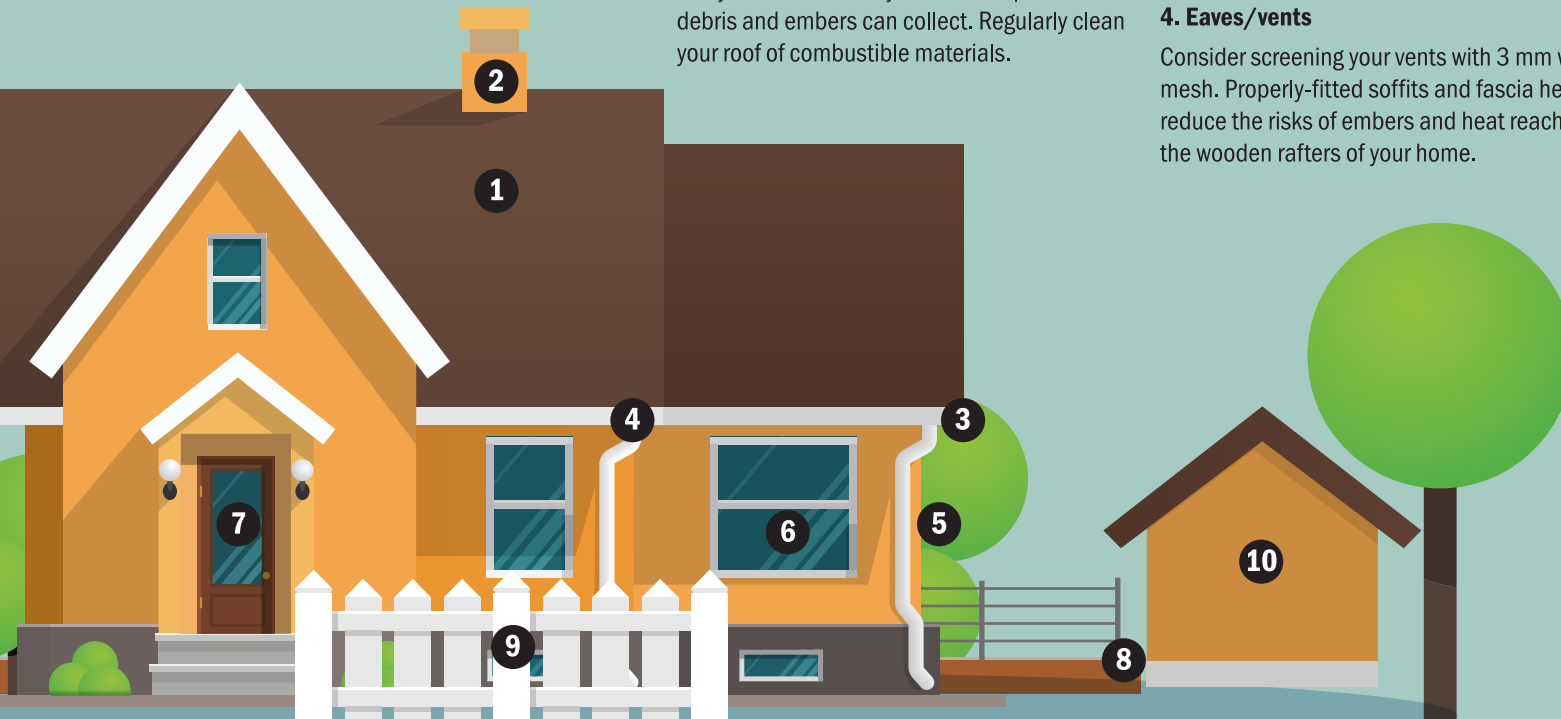
Sheath in the base of decks, balconies and houses with fire-resistant material to reduce the risk of sparks/embers igniting your home.

9. Fences

Wooden fences/walkways 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, as long, dry grass can ignite.

10. Sheds/outbuildings

If these are within 10 metres of your home, give them the same FireSmart considerations outlined above for your home.



LANDSCAPING YOUR YARD

Adding a few fire safety actions to your regular routine while working in your yard will reduce wildfire risks. Changes within 10 metres of your home and outbuildings will have the greatest impact.

A fire safe yard includes smart choices for plants, trees, shrubs, grass and mulch. Selecting fire-resistant plants and materials can increase the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire

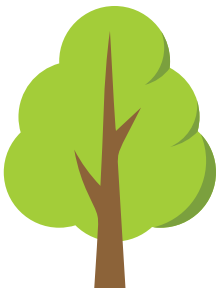
Characteristics of Fire-resistant Trees and Plants

- Moist, supple leaves
- Minimal accumulation of dead vegetation
- Water-like sap that produces little odour
- Low amount of sap or resin material

Trees to Plant

Deciduous (leafy) trees are resistant to wildfire and include:

- Poplar
- Birch
- Aspen
- Cottonwood
- Maple
- Alder
- Ash

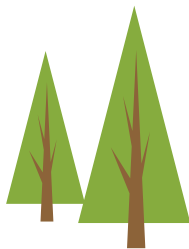


Characteristics of Highly Flammable Trees and Plants

- Aromatic leaves or needles
- Accumulations of fine, dry, dead material
- Resin or oils
- Loose, papery or flaky bark

Trees and Plants to Avoid

- Spruce
- Fir
- Pine
- Cedar
- Juniper
- Tall grass



Bark Mulch and Pine Needles

Bark or pine needle mulches are highly combustible and should not be used within 10 metres of your home. Gravel mulch and decorative crushed rock mulch significantly reduce the risk of fire.

Wood Pile(s)

Wood piled against a house is a serious fire hazard and should be moved. Ensure the area around wood piles is cleaned regularly of any debris.



Fire Pits

Fire Pit Requirements

- A minimum of 3 metres from buildings, property lines or other combustible material
- Must not exceed 0.6 metres in height
- Must not exceed 1 metre in width at the widest points at the opening
- Must be made of bricks, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal or other non-combustible materials
- Must be covered with a mesh screen with openings no larger than 1.25 cm.

On-site Fire Tools

Every home should have readily accessible shovels, rakes, axes, garden hoses, sprinklers and ladders to assist in suppressing fires.

Power Lines

Power lines should be clear of branches and other vegetation. Contact your local utility provider to remove any branches or vegetation around overhead electrical installations

Continued Maintenance

- Include debris clean-up in your spring and fall yard maintenance
- Dry leaves, twigs and branches are flammable and should be removed from your yard and gutters.
- Older deciduous (leafy) trees can have rot and damage that makes them susceptible to fire. An arbourist or forester can help you assess the condition of mature trees.

For more info:
Leduc.ca/fire | 780-980-8475

