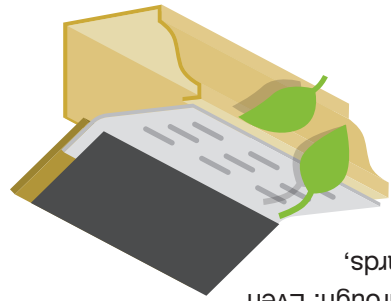


Avoid gutter guards that allow leaves and needles to accumulate in small gaps or openings.

Bad



Look for gutter guards that shed leaves and needles over the top to the ground while still letting water through. Even with gutter guards, periodic maintenance is necessary.

Good

During a wildfire, vinyl gutters do not resist heat like metal gutters. Vinyl gutters can melt and detach, leaving the roof edge exposed.

Debris in the gutter can ignite and fire can spread to the eaves. Install gutter guards to keep debris from accumulating, and maintain the roof where the gutter connects to make sure debris does not accumulate between the guard and the roof.

Gutter Guards

Seasonal Tips

Choosing appropriate construction materials and maintaining defensible space around your property offers the best protection your home can have from wildfire.

Spring

- Remove combustible materials from gutters and roof by late spring to avoid providing fuel to embers that may land there.
- Clean out understory vegetation within your defensible space, including litter in your fire-resistant plants!
- Move firewood piles at least 30 feet from your home, and cover them if possible.
- Keep weeds and grasses mowed to no more than 4 inches in height.
- If you are renovating your landscaping, consult the Firewise Landscaping brochure for information about appropriate vegetation selection, placement and other recommendations.

Winter

- Prune back any tree limbs overhanging or touching your home’s roof, deck, porches, driveway or outbuildings. Keep all vegetation at least 10 feet from chimneys or stovepipes.
- Remove all flammable brush within the first 30 feet of your home and break-up or remove ladder fuels inside your defensible space.
- Thin out tree stands to open the canopy, facilitate growth, and slow a fire’s spread.

Important stuff.

Anything attached to the house (decks, porches, fences and outbuildings) should be considered part of the house. These act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials. Use masonry or metal barriers to separate flammable construction from the house.

“When considering improvements to reduce wildfire vulnerability, the key is to consider the home in relation to its immediate surroundings. The home’s vulnerability is determined by the exposure of its external materials and design to flames and firebrands during extreme wildfires. The higher the fire intensities near the home, the greater the need for nonflammable construction materials and a resistant building design.”
— Jack Cohen, USDA-Forest Service Researcher and pioneer of the Home Ignition Zone Concept

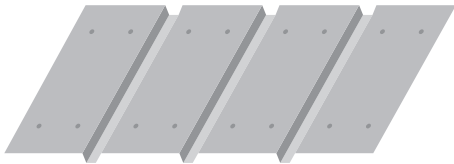
Roofing Materials

Use rated roofing materials. A or B rating is fire resistant and will help keep the flame from spreading.

Composite Shingle



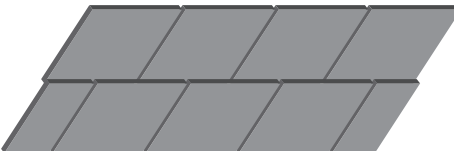
Metal



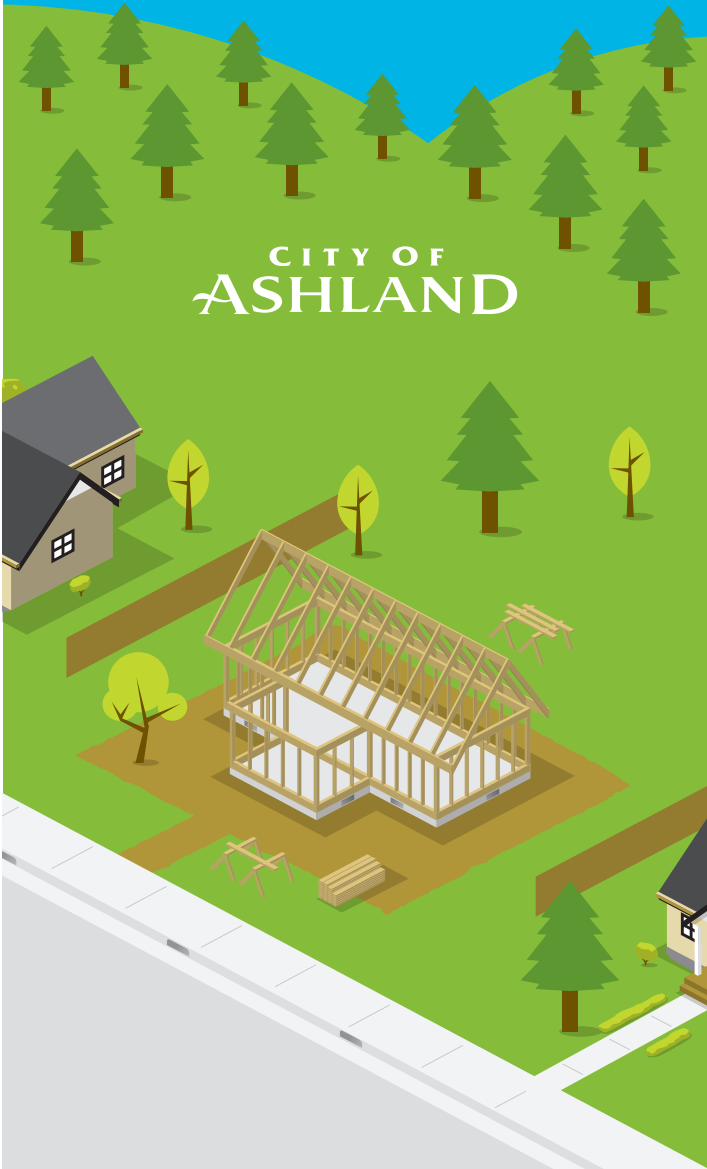
Clay



Cement Tile



Guidelines for Firewise Construction



Call us!

Still not sure? Call Ashland Fire & Rescue for answers or a free wildfire assessment.

Ashland Fire & Rescue
541-552-2231
TTY 800-735-2900

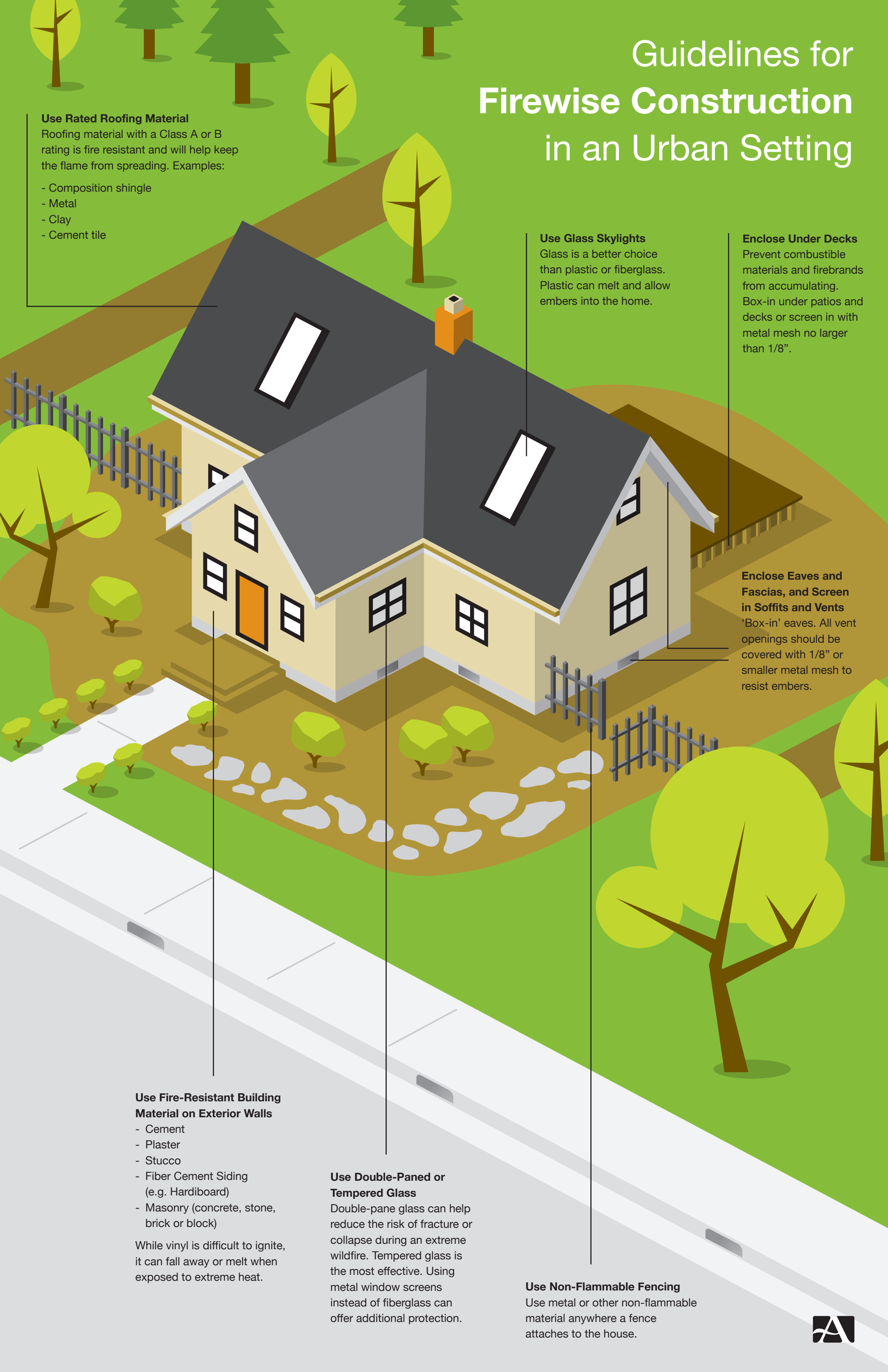
Other resources

ashlandfirewise.org
The National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) Firewise Communities program encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the risk of wildfire. We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves and each other from the risk of wildfire.

ashland.or.us/tips
More information about how to protect your home is available on the City’s website.



CITY OF ASHLAND



Guidelines for Firewise Construction in an Urban Setting

Use Rated Roofing Material

Roofing material with a Class A or B rating is fire resistant and will help keep the flame from spreading. Examples:

- Composition shingle
- Metal
- Clay
- Cement tile

Use Glass Skylights

Glass is a better choice than plastic or fiberglass. Plastic can melt and allow embers into the home.

Enclose Under Decks

Prevent combustible materials and firebrands from accumulating. Box-in under patios and decks or screen in with metal mesh no larger than 1/8".

Enclose Eaves and Fascias, and Screen in Soffits and Vents

'Box-in' eaves. All vent openings should be covered with 1/8" or smaller metal mesh to resist embers.

Use Fire-Resistant Building Material on Exterior Walls

- Cement
- Plaster
- Stucco
- Fiber Cement Siding (e.g. Hardiboard)
- Masonry (concrete, stone, brick or block)

While vinyl is difficult to ignite, it can fall away or melt when exposed to extreme heat.

Use Double-Paned or Tempered Glass

Double-pane glass can help reduce the risk of fracture or collapse during an extreme wildfire. Tempered glass is the most effective. Using metal window screens instead of fiberglass can offer additional protection.

Use Non-Flammable Fencing

Use metal or other non-flammable material anywhere a fence attaches to the house.

