

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.

