

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.

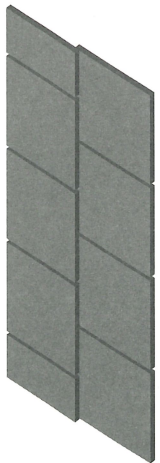
Use Double-Paned or Tempered Glass

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.

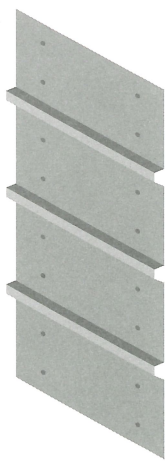




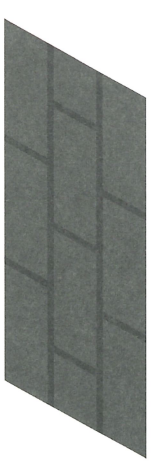
Cement Tile



Clay



Metal



Composite Shingle

from spreading.

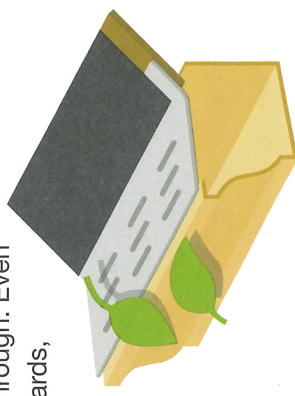
Use rated roofing materials. Roofing material with a Class A or B rating is fire resistant and will help keep the flame

Roofing Materials



Bad

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



Good

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.

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

the guard and the roof.

does not accumulate between

connects to make sure debris

fire can spread to the eaves.

Gutter Guards

Debris in the gutter can ignite and

Home Ignition Zone Concept

Researcher and pioneer of the

— Jack Cohen, USDA-Forest Service

building design.”

construction materials and a resistant

the need for nonflammable

intensities near the home, the greater

extreme wildfires. The higher the fire

design to flames and firebrands during

exposure of its external materials and

vulnerability is determined by the

immediate surroundings. The home’s

to consider the home in relation to its

reduce wildfire vulnerability, the key is

“When considering improvements to

from the house.

separate flammable construction

flammable materials.

particularly if constructed from

These act as fuel bridges,

considered part of the house.

outbuildings) should be

(decks, porches, fences and

Important stuff.

Anything attached to the house

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.

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.

Guidelines for Firewise Construction

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