

Tips for homeowners on Wildfire home protection

Canadian
Home Builders'
Association



While implementing the changes below cannot prevent a wildfire it will increase your home's protection during a wildfire event. Share these tips with your neighbours to work collaboratively to protect your community.

Routine Maintenance



- Clean your vents and eavestroughs of debris
- Keep firewood, lumber and other combustible material at least 10 m away from the house perimeter if possible
- Mow the lawn frequently to keep the grass under 10 cm
- Remove debris or dead vegetation from underneath your deck/stairs

Landscaping Options



- Remove ground cover like mulch and plants within 1.5 m of the home
- Prune trees to allow for 2 m clearance from ground to lowest branch
- Ensure your plants are well spaced and low growing
- Ensure any sheds or other out buildings are at least 10 m away from residence if possible
- Trim branches from trees that are overhanging your home or deck

Simple Upgrades



- Install 3mm non-combustible screens on soffits and to all external vents (except dryer vents)
- Replace door weather stripping that is old, worn or missing
- Install non-combustible ground materials within 1.5 m of the home (soil, rock, concrete, stone) and ensure 15 cm vertical clearance to siding
- Ensure fencing and gates within 1.5m of the home are made of non-combustible materials

Complex Upgrades



- When re-roofing, install Class A fire-resistant shingles
- When replacing siding, choose non-combustible siding
- Install multi-pane or tempered glass windows and fire-rated doors
- Remove any conifer trees within 10 m of home
- Ensure all deck components are made of fire-safe materials

This is only one part of your emergency plan.

By implementing these steps above you will make great headway in protecting your home from wildfires. These actions should be part of your larger emergency preparedness plan that includes flood, high winds, or earthquake.

Your risk level is influenced by where you live.

Consult resources created by your municipal government and local emergency services to ensure you are equipped with the knowledge you need to act swiftly and safely in a crisis situation.

For more resources on
maintaining your home
and renovating, visit
<https://blog.chba.ca>