

Suggestions for Upgrading and Protecting your House from Wildfires

Your FireSafe Council has researched and compiled these suggestions.

To avoid Roofing related fire risks:

- Choose class A roof coverings i.e. asphalt, fiberglass, composition shingles, clay or concrete tiles. If choosing clay or concrete tiles, ensure your roof can accommodate the extra weight. Check for missing and broken tiles.
- Clean roof of debris on a regular basis.
- Skylights are more likely to collect debris on flat roofs than pitched roofs. Check and clean skylights of all debris. Skylights should be made of tempered glass.
- Gutters should be made of metal and cleaned regularly.
- Cover all vents with 1/16 inch screening. Use a ridge vent that has an external baffle if possible.
- Remove tree branches that overhang your Roof and Eaves.
- Maintain a defensible space around your home.

WINDOWS

- Use tempered glass when installing or replacing windows
- Screens should be 1/16 inch if possible
- Replace rotted sills
- In the event of evacuation, close windows and shutters before leaving.
- Clear dry debris from under windows.

- If replacing or installing new vinyl windows, using vinyl windows with metal reinforcements are better.

DECKS

- Solid deck surfaces are safer than "slotted" decks with spaces in between planks.
- Composites and plastics are also combustible so they should be treated. If using wood, high density wood is preferable (such as ipe)
- If vents are required, use 1/16 screens
- In event of nearby fire, move all deck furniture inside

PLANTS

We live in what is called a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) where urban development interfaces with undeveloped land. If you are interested in planting or removing plants that protect your home from wildfires visit ucanr.org/sites/SAFElandscapes/ to access the SAFE Landscapes website (Sustainable And Fires Safe Landscapes) where you can get information about creating defensible spaces and safely co-existing in WUI zones.