

Protect Your Home from Wildfires



According to the National Centers for Environmental Information, there were 66,255 fires in the US in 2022 which burned 7,534,403 acres of land. Embers from wildfires can travel for miles and still ignite when they land on something flammable. There are steps you can take to protect your home no matter where you live and especially if you live in a fire-prone area.

- If you live in an area prone to fires, you should have a roof made of non-combustible material, such as metal, composite, clay, or tile. Ensure your chimney or stove pipe outlets are covered with a metal mesh, and close the fireplace flue during fire season. You should also box in your eaves with non-combustible materials to stop embers.
- Walls and decks should be made from non-combustible materials such as stucco, fiber cement, or specially treated wood. Do not store flammable materials under decks or near your home exterior. Use a metal mesh with holes no larger than 1/16th to 1/8th of an inch to cover the opening under your deck or into your crawlspace.
- Anything that attaches to the house, such as fences or arbors, should be made of fire-resistant material.
- Clean your gutters regularly to prevent leaves and debris from building up on your roof, which can act as kindling. Gutter guards can help with this; just make sure they are made from a metal mesh to stop embers.
- Vents are a prime way for embers to get into your house; use a metal mesh on the inside of vents to stop burning embers. Fire-resistant vents are designed to stop embers and flames from entering your home.
- Windows should be dual paned, with at least one of the panes being tempered to reduce the chance of breaking from the heat. Make sure that there are metal screens on the inside of the windows to stop embers if the windows do break. Limit the size and number of windows facing large vegetation areas to reduce the amount of radiant heat exposure.
- If you have a garage on the property, consider having a battery back up on the doors to ensure they function in a power outage. Make sure to put weather stripping around and under the doors to stop embers.
- Be sure to have sufficient hoses to reach your whole house.
- In any emergency, it is imperative that first responders can find you quickly. Ensure that your address is easily readable from the street and that your driveway is large enough for a firetruck. Trim any vegetation that might impede their progress. If you have a gate, ensure that it swings inward and ensure local police and fire departments have the code\keys.