



# Built Environment



**Eaves:** Embers can accumulate under open eaves and enter the attic through gaps in construction materials. Protect eaves on the exposed side with ignition resistant material. Enclose eaves with fiber cement board or 5/8 inch thick high-grade plywood. If not possible, fill daylight gaps in attic with caulk or fire resistant rated foam.

**Exterior Siding:** Ignition-resistant materials are better choices, such as cement board. If replacing noncombustible siding is not feasible, keep wood siding maintained in good condition. Within the first 5 feet of structure, remove vegetation growing onto structure.

**Windows & Skylights:** Windows are one of the weakest parts of a home and usually break before the structure ignites. Install dual-pane tempered glass for all exterior windows. The type of window frame is not as critical. Keep vegetation away from windows.

**Vents:** Attic, eave and foundation vents are potential entry points for embers. Replace all 1/4 - inch vent with 1/8-inch wire mesh. New Chapter 7A compliant WUI rated vents prevent burning embers from reaching interior spaces, available at Diamond Lumber and Home Depot. Do not permanently cover vents. Remove plants growing in front of vents.

**Rain Gutters:** Rain gutters trap flying embers. Always keep rain gutters free of leaves, needles and debris. Clean them several times during fire season. Consider replacing with a leaf guard system that restricts forest debris ability to accumulate.

**Flammable Items:** Keep the porch, under decks and other areas of the home free of easily combustibles materials (baskets, plastic flowerpots, wood, pine needles and debris).

**Decks:** Poorly maintained wood and plastic materials are often combustible. As an option, consider using fire-resistant rated materials. Routinely remove needles, leaves, twigs and weeds from gaps between deck boards and under the deck. Enclose the undersides of the deck with lattice or mesh fencing, to reduce forest debris and restrict embers.

**Firewood:** Stacks should be located at least 30 feet from the home. If the stacks are stored uphill from the house, make sure burning firewood cannot roll downhill and ignite the home. Consider using an ember-resistant firewood cover.

**Roof:** Class A fire-resistant roofs are asphalt composition, metal or tile and do not burn, only the accumulating forest litter ignites. Replace wood siding along dormers with cement board.

**Chimneys:** Cover chimney and stovepipe openings with an approved spark arrestor cap.