

# Although a wildfire's path of destruction can appear random, there are actions you can take that improve your home's likelihood of survival.

**In 2008, California implemented new fire-resistant building standards for homes in fire-prone regions.**

**An analysis of the homes in the path of the 2018 Camp Fire demonstrated the effectiveness of these measures:** just 18 percent of homes built before 2008 were undamaged, compared to 51 percent of the homes built after 2008.

It is nearly impossible to make one's home completely fireproof, but you can make it more fire-resistant. Based on California Building Code Chapter 7A and the recommendations of CAL FIRE and other fire prevention experts, here are measures you can take to **harden your home**.



## START AT THE TOP

During a wildfire, the most significant threat to your home is likely to come from flying embers. Wind-blown embers can destroy homes up to a mile away from a wildfire, igniting a blaze that can spread quickly.



### ROOF

Replace wood or shingle roofs with non-flammable materials like asphalt, clay, metal or slate.



### EAVES AND SOFFITS (UNDERSIDE OF ROOF)

Protect eaves and soffits with ignition-resistant or non-combustible materials.



### WALLS

When replacing wood siding products with ignition-resistant materials, remember to extend materials all the way from the roof to the foundation.

## PROTECT WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR HOME

Your roof may be fireproof, but odds are the same can't be said for what's underneath it. Items like furniture, carpets and countless other household items are at risk when embers enter the home. The key is considering potential openings through which embers could enter your home and keeping them out.



### VENTS

Vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch metal mesh.



### CHIMNEY

Cover chimney and stovepipe outlets with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch metal mesh to prevent embers from entering and igniting a fire.



### DOGGY DOOR

Be sure it seals properly and remains closed during fire season.



### GARAGE DOORS

Use weather stripping to seal gaps around openings like garage doors.



### WINDOWS

Windows can be broken from the heat of a wildfire, creating an opening for flying embers. Install dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage.



### MISSING TILES AND SHINGLES

Fill roof or siding openings by replacing missing shingles or tiles.

## WORK YOUR WAY OUT

A fire burning next to your home can prove just as dangerous as one inside it. Be sure items within five feet of your home are fire-resistant.



### RAIN GUTTERS

Don't allow plant debris to build up in rain gutters attached to your house. You can prevent accumulation of leaves or pine needles by screening or enclosing gutters and making sure they're cleaned regularly.



### PATIO COVER

Patio coverings should use the same ignition-resistant materials as a roof.



### DECKS

Decks are another large surface area on which embers can land. In addition to using ignition resistant decking, be sure to prevent debris from building up either on or underneath your deck.



### FLAMMABLE MATERIALS

Propane tanks and woodpiles should be moved away from the home. Replace organic mulch and flammable plants with non-flammable alternatives.



### FENCING

Use ignition-resistant or non-combustible fencing materials. Separate wood fencing from your house with a metal or stone barrier.

## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

In a fire, the safety of an entire neighborhood is often dependent on the weakest link, as every home that catches fire serves as another ignition source that puts others at risk. This is especially true in many areas where the 100 feet of defensible space around one home crosses into a neighbor's yard, and vice versa.

In addition to taking these measures to harden your home, the following steps can help facilitate a faster response to a fire emergency.



### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Every home should be equipped with fire extinguishers to combat small fires before they have a chance to grow. Tools like a shovel, rake or bucket can also help stop a fire from spreading.



### HOSES

Consider having multiple garden hoses that are capable of reaching every area of your home or property.



### EMERGENCY ACCESS

Fire and emergency vehicles need to be able to get to your home. Trim trees or shrubs that overhang a driveway or access road. Make sure your address is visible from the road.

## CREATE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

It is important to create a buffer zone around your house to protect it from wildfires. Defensible space zones extend 100 feet from buildings and structures.



### YARD MAINTENANCE AND PLANT SPACING

CAL FIRE has guidelines on how to maintain a defensible space around your home in Zone 1 (up to 30 feet) and Zone 2 (up to 100 feet).



### FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING

The strategic use of fire-resistant plants and materials can reduce the likelihood of fire spreading to your home. Features like a stone walkway can act as a fire break that protects your home from burning grass.



**TO LEARN MORE WAYS TO HARDEN YOUR HOME,  
PLEASE VISIT [READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG](https://www.readyforwildfire.org)**