

# 10 Low Cost Ways to Harden your Home (CalFire)

- **Roof:** The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire. Build your roof or re-roof with materials such as composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent embers from catching.
  - Fire-resistant Class A roof material
  - Block space between roof covering and sheathing
- **Gutters**
  - Metal gutter covers
    - Non-combustible
    - corrosion resistant
- **Chimney / stovepipe outlets**
  - 3/8" – 1/2" metal mesh screen
    - Noncombustible
    - corrosion-resistant
- **Vent Openings:** Vents on homes create openings for flying embers.
  - 1/16" – 1/8" metal mesh screen
    - Noncombustible
    - corrosion-resistant
- **Exposed Rafters:**
  - Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/16"
    - Ember intrusion
- **Eaves and Soffits:** Eaves and soffits should be protected with ignition-resistant\* or non-combustible materials.
- **Exterior siding:**
  - Dry rot and Warping
    - Fix/replace
  - Gaps and Cracks greater than 1/16"
    - Caulk or Plug
- **Garage Door:** Have a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket, and hose available for fire emergencies.
  - Weather stripping (gaps greater than 1/16")
    - Compliant with UL Standard 10C
- **Windows:** Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home is on fire. This allows burning embers to enter and start fires inside. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable.
  - Multi-paned
    - At least 1 pane of tempered glass

- **Siding and Decks:** Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant\*, non-combustible, or other approved materials.
  - Noncombustible and ignition-resistant materials
    - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- **Fences:** Consider using ignition-resistant\* or non-combustible fence materials to protect your home during a wildfire.

#### Defensible space

- Regularly remove fallen leaves and other flammable material
  - On/under/around (5 ft) decks
  - Roof
  - Gutters
  - Siding
- Vegetation or other combustible material (5 ft) of windows and glass doors)
- Dead or dying veg (30 ft) from structures or to the property line
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1/16" = 1.6mm, <2mm