

15 tips to protect your home from wildfire

Did you know that every year in Canada, wildfires destroy an average of [25,000 square kilometres](#) – an area greater than Nova Scotia? With [nearly two-thirds](#) of all Canadian communities located close to forests and grasslands, millions of Canadians are at risk. Maybe even you.

The good news is, there are easy and inexpensive steps **you can take to reduce the risk of wildfire** damaging your home.

[FireSmart Canada](#) and the [Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#) at the University of Waterloo have developed tips for every budget to help protect homes from the risk of wildfire.

For those short on time and money



1. **Remove leaves, tree needles and other debris from your roof, gutters and deck. Clean your vents.**
2. Remove combustible materials (firewood and lumber) stored within 10 metres of your house. Don't store combustible materials under your deck.
3. **Mow your lawn to less than 10 centimetres and plant low-growing, well-spaced shrubs and other vegetation.**



4. Remove all combustible ground cover (mulch and plants) within 1.5 metres of your home by sweeping or raking the area down to mineral soil, rock or concrete.



5. **Prune trees to create a 2-metre clearance from the ground to the lowest tree branches.**

For those with a little more time and money (up to \$3,000)

6. Install non-combustible fencing within 1.5 metres of the house (e.g. cement fiber, metal, chain link or stone).

7. **Create a 15 centimetres ground-to-siding non-combustible clearance (e.g. install cement board or metal skirting).**



8. **Install non-combustible ground surfaces within 1.5 metres of the house (e.g. mineral soil, rock, concrete or stone).**



9. **Replace worn or missing weather stripping on all doors, including garage doors.**

10. **Add a non-combustible 3 mm screen on all external vents (except dryer vents).**

For those undertaking major renovations with a bigger budget (up to \$30,000)

11. **Install non-combustible siding (e.g. stucco, metal, stone or cement fibre board).**



12. **Install multi-pane or tempered glass windows and exterior fire rated doors.**

13. **Remove conifer trees that are within 10 metres of your house.**



14. **Install a Class A fire-resistant roof covering (e.g. cement fibre, metal or asphalt shingles).**

15. **Retrofit all deck components to be fire-rated and with a continuous surface.**

Download the **FireSmart Begins at Home** app for more great info, including FireSmart building materials if you're building or renovating a home. You can find the app on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

<https://newsroom.intactfc.com/2021-06-17-15-tips-to-protect-your-home-from-wildfire>