

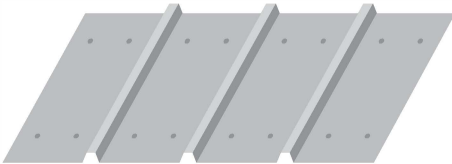
Roofing Materials

Use rated roofing materials. Roofing material with a Class A or B rating is fire resistant and will help keep the flame from spreading.

Composite Shingle



Metal



Clay



Cement Tile



Important stuff.

Anything attached to the house (decks, porches, fences and outbuildings) should be considered part of the house. These act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials.

Use masonry or metal barriers to separate flammable construction from the house.

“When considering improvements to reduce wildfire vulnerability, the key is to consider the home in relation to its immediate surroundings. The home’s vulnerability is determined by the exposure of its external materials and design to flames and firebrands during extreme wildfires. The higher the fire intensities near the home, the greater the need for nonflammable construction materials and a resistant building design.”

— Jack Cohen, USDA-Forest Service Researcher and pioneer of the Home Ignition Zone Concept

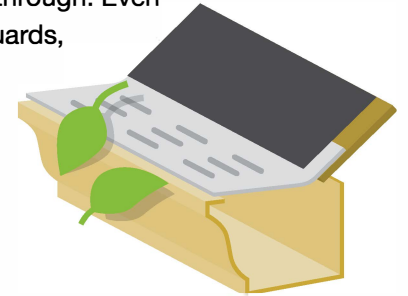
Gutter Guards

Debris in the gutter can ignite and fire can spread to the eaves. Install gutter guards to keep debris from accumulating, and maintain the roof where the gutter connects to make sure debris does not accumulate between the guard and the roof.

During a wildfire, vinyl gutters do not resist heat like metal gutters. Vinyl gutters can melt and detach, leaving the roof edge exposed.

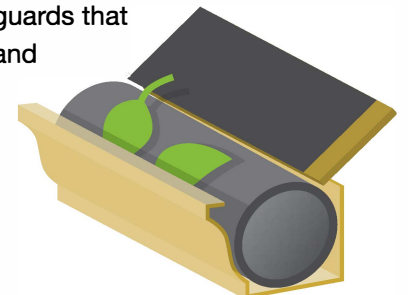
Good

Look for gutter guards that shed leaves and needles over the top to the ground while still letting water through. Even with gutter guards, periodic maintenance is necessary.



Bad

Avoid gutter guards that allow leaves and needles to accumulate in small gaps or openings.



Seasonal Tips

Choosing appropriate construction materials and maintaining defensible space around your property offers the best protection your home can have from wildfire.

Spring

- Remove combustible materials from gutters and roof by late spring to avoid providing fuel to embers that may land there.
- Clean out understory vegetation within your defensible space, including litter in your fire-resistant plants!
- Move firewood piles at least 30 feet from your home, and cover them if possible.
- Keep weeds and grasses mowed to no more than 4 inches in height.
- If you are renovating your landscaping, consult the Firewise Landscaping brochure for information about appropriate vegetation selection, placement and other recommendations.

Winter

- Prune back any tree limbs overhanging or touching your home's roof, deck, porches, driveway or outbuildings. Keep all vegetation at least 10 feet from chimneys or stovepipes.
- Remove all flammable brush within the first 30 feet of your home and break-up or remove ladder fuels inside your defensible space.
- Thin out tree stands to open the canopy, facilitate growth, and slow a fire's spread.

Call us!

Still not sure? Call Ashland Fire & Rescue for answers or a free wildfire assessment.

Ashland Fire & Rescue
541-552-2231
TTY 800-735-2900

Other resources

ashlandfirewise.org

The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise Communities program encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the risk of wildfire. We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves and each other from the risk of wildfire.

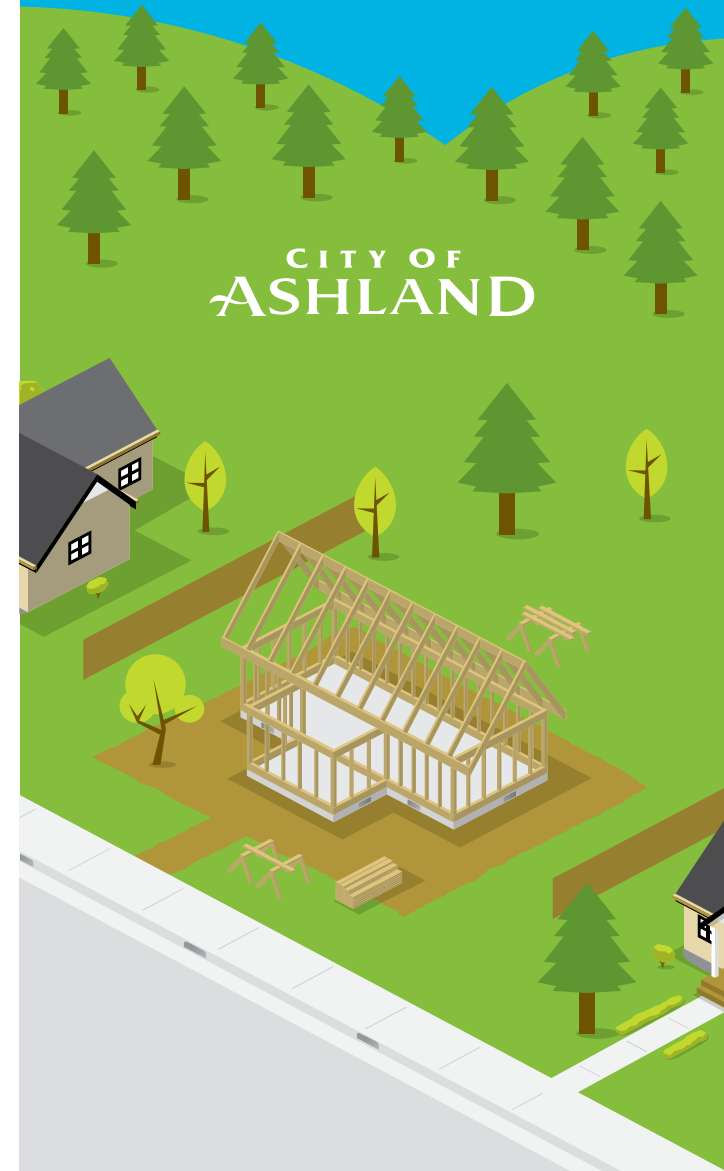
ashland.or.us/tips

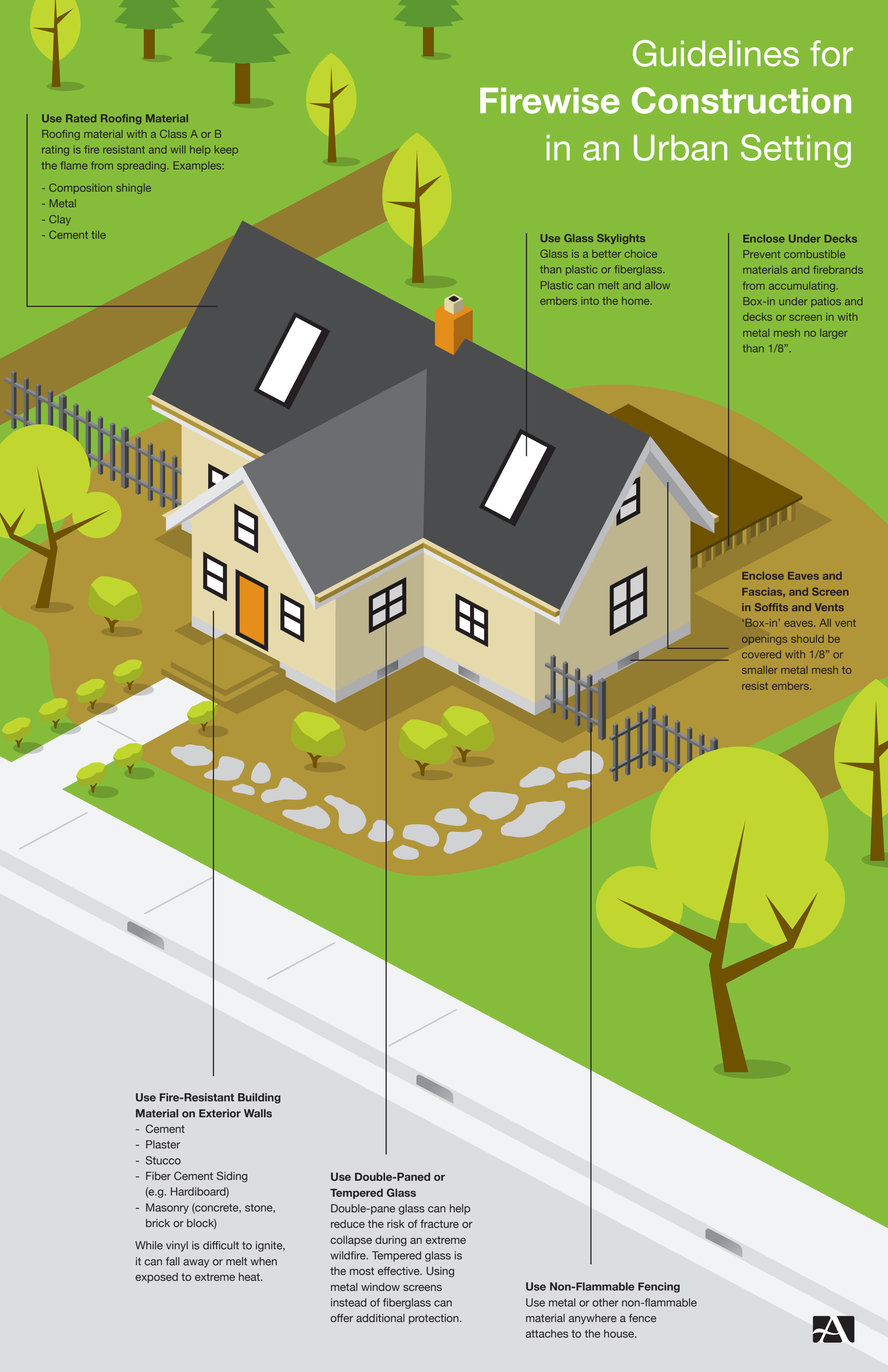
More information about how to protect your home is available on the City's website.



**CITY OF
ASHLAND**

Guidelines for Firewise Construction





Guidelines for Firewise Construction in an Urban Setting

Use Rated Roofing Material

Roofing material with a Class A or B rating is fire resistant and will help keep the flame from spreading. Examples:

- Composition shingle
- Metal
- Clay
- Cement tile

Use Glass Skylights

Glass is a better choice than plastic or fiberglass. Plastic can melt and allow embers into the home.

Enclose Under Decks

Prevent combustible materials and firebrands from accumulating. Box-in under patios and decks or screen in with metal mesh no larger than 1/8".

Enclose Eaves and Fascias, and Screen in Soffits and Vents

'Box-in' eaves. All vent openings should be covered with 1/8" or smaller metal mesh to resist embers.

Use Fire-Resistant Building Material on Exterior Walls

- Cement
- Plaster
- Stucco
- Fiber Cement Siding (e.g. Hardiboard)
- Masonry (concrete, stone, brick or block)

While vinyl is difficult to ignite, it can fall away or melt when exposed to extreme heat.

Use Double-Paned or Tempered Glass

Double-pane glass can help reduce the risk of fracture or collapse during an extreme wildfire. Tempered glass is the most effective. Using metal window screens instead of fiberglass can offer additional protection.

Use Non-Flammable Fencing

Use metal or other non-flammable material anywhere a fence attaches to the house.



Firewise Tips

A wildfire can occur in any neighborhood in Ashland.

Follow Firewise recommendations to minimize fire risk to your home and neighborhood.

- Avoid fire-prone conifers along your property line. Instead, use fire-resistant plants to create visual screens. Suggestions include: lilac, holly, photinia, boxwood, azalea, and rhododendron.
- Consider the use of nonflammable structures like metal arbors or fences with fire resistant vines or climbing plants.
- Resist planting tightly spaced conifer vegetation that will provide accessible fuel in dense neighborhoods or close to homes.
- Establish a fuel break in the vegetation in your yard by installing rock or concrete pathways.
- Keep a fuel free area 3-5 feet near your house.
- Use rock or pebbles instead of bark mulch next to home.
- Plant moisture rich succulents, annuals and perennials near your home.
- Keep all vegetation watered, free of dead material, and maintained to prevent fire spread.

Call us!

Still not sure? Call Ashland Fire & Rescue for answers or a free wildfire assessment.

Ashland Fire & Rescue
541-482-2770
TTY 800-735-2900

Other resources

ashlandfirewise.org
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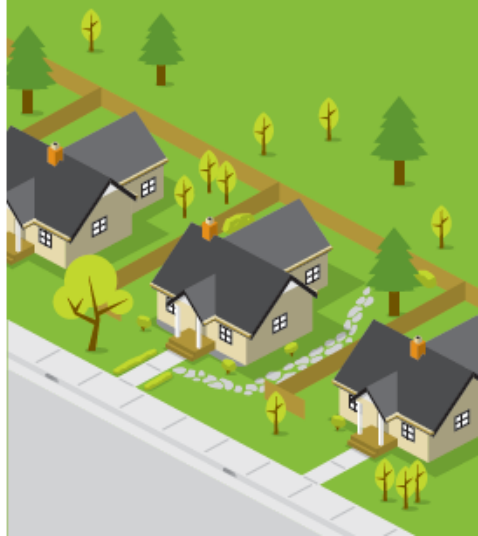
We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves and each other from the risk of wildfire.

ashland.or.us/plants
More fire-resistant plant recommendations are available on the City of Ashland's website.

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Guidelines for Firewise Landscaping in an Urban Setting

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Recommendations

Control the density and placement of highly flammable vegetation within 30 feet of your home or up to your property line, including attachments such as decks and carports.

Modify vegetation to meet Firewise landscaping recommendations. In some cases, removal, instead of modification, will be the best solution.

By managing fire-prone vegetation, you can minimize the risk of home ignition and spread of wildfire in your neighborhood.

Indiscriminate clearing of vegetation that plays an important role in erosion control is not recommended. Instead, evaluate the placement of fire prone vegetation that could ignite from flame exposure or embers.

And remember, all vegetation is potential fuel for a wildfire if not pruned periodically.



Deciduous plants lose their leaves seasonally and present a lower fire risk than conifers. Conifers are needle bearing evergreens with higher resin content and present a fire risk.

Avoid these plants

Fire Prone Trees

Arbovitae
Cedar
Cypress
Douglas Fir
Eucalyptus
Fir
Juniper
Palm
Redwood
Scotch Pine
Sequoia
Spruce
Yew

Fire Prone Grasses, Shrubs, Ground Covers

Buckbrush
French broom
Himalayan Blackberry
Juniper
Manzanita
Mugo Pine
Pampas grass
Rosemary
Scotch broom
Spanish broom

These and other similar plants are considered fire prone because they are known for the amount of dead material that accumulates in and around them, and high oil, high resin, or low moisture content of their leaves and branches.

All plants are flammable if not pruned periodically and the risk attached to any one plant can be greatly diminished with maintenance. This list is in no way inclusive and can be modified at any time.

Modify existing plants

Fire Prone Vegetation should be removed or modified within 30 feet from any building or structure including decks and combustible attachments.

Fire Prone Trees

- Prune (limb up) a minimum of six feet from ground, and
- Maintain clearance of three times the height of under story vegetation.
- All branches should be no closer than ten feet from the structure, including the roofline and deck.

Fire Prone Shrubs

- The space between two shrubs should be a minimum of two times the height of the tallest shrub.
- Individual shrubs or groups of shrubs clumped together should be modified so that their diameter does not exceed 15 feet.

Minimize fire risk from ALL plants:

- Remove dead branches and twigs.
- Selectively prune to reduce plant density.
- Keep watered.



A Neighborhood Responsibility — The home ignition zone is up to 200 feet from your home. Safe homes in an urban setting are a neighborhood responsibility.

Guidelines for Firewise Landscaping in an Urban Setting



Keep Clear

Safe Spacing

Remove lower tree limbs to reduce “fire ladder”.

Keep all fire prone trees 10 feet from roof.

Keep all trees 10 feet from chimney.

Minimize the fuel load of trees and shrubs with proper spacing.

Good Plants

Plant moisture rich succulents, annuals and perennials near your home.

Fuel Free Zone

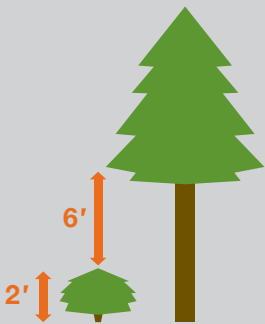
Keep fire prone vegetation and dry debris 3-5 feet your house.

Safe Groundcover

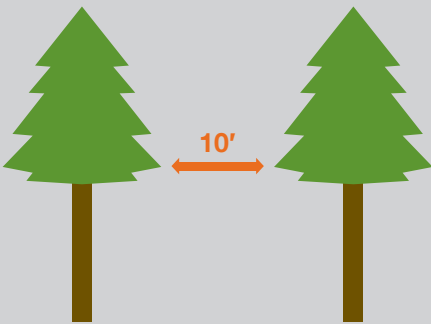
Use rock or pebbles instead of bark or mulch next to your home.

Fuel Break

Establish a fuel break in the vegetation in your yard by installing rock or concrete pathways.



Minimum Vertical Clearance
3 x the height of the shrub to the lowest branches of the tree



Tree Spacing
Flat to mild slope
10 foot spacing

Mild to moderate slope
20 foot spacing

Moderate to steep slope
30 foot spacing



Shrub Spacing
Flat to mild slope
2 x the height of the shrub

Mild to moderate slope
4 x the height of the shrub

Moderate to steep slope
8 x the height of the shrub

Keep it lean and green.
Keep vegetation lean, clean and green. Keep all vegetation watered, free of dead material, and maintained.

