

The Problem	The Fix
<p><b>Defensible Space</b> is the area around a building where vegetation is managed to reduce the wildfire threat to the structure.</p> <p>Defensible space is divided into two or three zones, based on distance from the structure:</p> <p><b>(1)</b> 0-5 ft - the "noncombustible zone"  <b>(2)</b> 5 - 30 ft - the "lean, clean and green zone"  <b>(3)</b> 30 - 100 ft - the "reduced fuel zone"</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>(1) Noncombustible zone: install hard surfaces or rock-type mulch. Remove dead vegetation; consider removing shrubs under or next to windows and vents  (2) Lean, Clean and Green Zone: maintain spacing between vegetation, eliminating "ladder fuels" and do not permit debris to accumulate  (3) Reduced Fuel Zone: create islands or groupings of vegetation to disrupt wildfire spread; maintain area to prevent wildfire from climbing to the crown of the trees (CAL FIRE has info on suggested distances).</p>
<p><b>Roofing</b> can be a major fire vulnerability -- including materials, roof design and shape, age and state of repair. Make roof assessments a priority in purchasing or remodeling a building. Replacing a roof can yield major benefits.</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>If you're uncertain about the materials of your roof, be sure to maintain your defensible space.</p> <p><b>Owners Only:</b></p> <p>1) Determine your roofing material via inspection by a professional roofer  2) Repair damaged roofs promptly, and upgrade to Class A material</p>
<p><b>Roofing gaps</b> can occur between the roof's covering and its sheathing. These gaps can create a fire-entry route, and are often found at the ridge and edges of the roof. Roof types vulnerable to gaps include clay barrel tile, some metal roofs (with a standing-seam style), cement roof coverings; even flat roof profiles can have gaps at the ridge and hip of the roof.</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>Use a commercially available "bird stop" to cover open edge gaps, either as manufactured product or a DIY mortar mix.</p> <p><b>Owners Only:</b></p> <p>Replace broken or damaged tiles on roof</p>
<p><b>Skylights</b>, particularly the intersection between skylight and roof, and the skylight itself, can collect combustible wind-blown debris (e.g., leaves, twigs and pine needles) and embers. As well, direct flame or radiant heat from fire can damage or melt the skylight lens.</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>Regularly inspect your skylights and remove all accumulated debris. Flatter roofs are more susceptible to debris, but it can accumulate on any slope.</p>
<p><b>Gutters</b> can collect vegetative debris in gutters, which can be readily ignited by wind-blown embers.</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>(1) remove tree branches that overhang your roof  (2) remove debris from gutters at least twice a year</p> <p><b>Owners Only:</b></p> <p>(1) Install metal gutters  (2) Install a cover mesh over gutters to limit debris buildup  (3) Install a metal drip edge to protect the roof edge from flames and to minimize vulnerability of soffited-eave construction from embers</p>
<p><b>Vents</b>, whether under-eave, attic, roof or foundation, can be entry points for embers and flames, which can then ignite combustible materials stored in these spaces.</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>(1) check whether your vented openings are screened</p> <p><b>Owners Only:</b></p> <p>(1) Cover vents with 1/8-in corrosion resistant metal mesh screen to protect from entry of embers  (2) Update your under-eave with soffited (boxed-in) eave  (3) Install commercially sold closure devices for gable end and open-eave vents</p>
<p><b>Windows and Door glass</b> can shatter on even short (1-3 minute) exposure to a fire's radiant heat or direct flames, creating a path for the fire into the building. Larger windows are more vulnerable than smaller ones. Multi-pane windows are better for wildfire resistance (and energy efficiency). Screens offer protection from radiant heat, but not from direct heat.</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>(1) clear debris around window or door sills  (2) check whether windows are tempered glass, multi-pane, or double-pane  (3) use noncombustible rock-type mulch directly surrounding your structure  (4) consider preparing window/door covers to install as part of evacuation activities  (5) close all windows and doors before evacuating</p>
<p><b>Decks, Patios and Porches</b> are often made of combustible material; they are also part of a structure's defensible space and can be especially vulnerable if elevated, when vegetation and debris can accumulate beneath them.</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>Not sure the content here - the original draft was a copy/paste of the cell above...</p> <p><b>Owners Only:</b></p> <p>New construction should prioritize:</p> <p>(1) higher density types wood to reduce ignition  (2) lightweight concrete (non-combustible) walking surfaces  (3) a 6-in gap between siding and deck, fitted with a metal flashing between the two</p>
<p><b>Chimneys, Burn Barrels, and Open Debris Burning</b> can permit embers to escape and can cause wildfires</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>Use a Spark Arrestor with a 1/2in mesh size on your chimney or barrel burns. For open fires, always follow CALFIRE's Safe Debris Burning Guideline.</p>
<p><b>Fences</b> cluttered with debris can ignite; embers can ignite elsewhere on the property or in the building itself, especially if the fence attaches to the building</p>	<p><b>Owners and/or Tenants:</b></p> <p>Clear combustible debris and vegetation from fences</p> <p><b>Owners Only:</b></p> <p>Construct new fences using ignition-resistant materials, and porous designs such as lattices to resist embers</p>