

Areas Vulnerable to Ember Attack

1	<p><i>Wood Roof</i> Replace wood shake and shingle roofs with fire-resistant types such as composition, metal and tile.</p>
2	<p><i>Roof Openings</i> Plug openings in roof coverings, such as the open ends of barrel tiles, with non-combustible materials.</p>
3	<p><i>Roof Debris</i> Routinely remove plant debris, such as pine needles, leaves, branches and bark, from the roof.</p>
4	<p><i>Skylights</i> Replace plastic skylights with types constructed of double-pane glass. One of the panes should be tempered glass. Close skylights if wildfire is threatening.</p>
5.	<p><i>Spark Arrester</i> Install an approved spark arrester on chimneys.</p>
6	<p><i>Windows</i> Replace single-pane, non-tempered glass windows with multiple-pane, tempered-glass types. Close all windows in wildfire is threatening.</p>
7	<p><i>Vents</i> Replace attic, eve, and foundation vents with ember resistant types. If replacement is not practicable, cover attic, eave, and foundation vents with 1/8-inch wire mesh or install new vent types designed to minimize ember entry. If wildfire is threatening and you have time, consider covering vent openings with pre-cut plywood or aluminum foil folded several layers thick and stapled.</p>
8	<p><i>Rain Gutters</i> Keep rain gutters free of plant debris during fire season. Consider using rain gutter covers to reduce maintenance.</p>
9	<p><i>Siding</i> Fill gaps in siding and trim materials with a good quality caulk to prevent embers from becoming lodged there and replace poor condition wood products. Preferably, replace wood siding with a fire resistant kind.</p>
10	<p><i>Woodpiles</i> Move firewood stacks and scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the house or other buildings during fire season.</p>
11	<p><i>Patio Furniture</i> Place combustible patio furniture, such as lounges, tables, and hammocks, inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening.</p>
12	<p><i>Deck Boards</i> Ideally, replace deck boards with fire resistant types. If replacement is not feasible, keep your deck in good condition and replace any weathered or decayed materials. Use metal flashing between the deck and the house.</p>
13	<p><i>Deck Debris</i> Remove plant debris from the gaps between deck boards, the gap between the deck and house, and lying on top of the deck.</p>
14	<p><i>Porch and Deck Accessories</i> If wildfire is threatening, remove combustible materials from the porch and deck including newspapers, wicker baskets, door mats, and dried flower arrangements and place BBQ propane tanks indoors.</p>

15	<p><i>Under the Deck</i> Remove plant debris, wood piles, and other easily ignited materials from under decks. Consider enclosing the open sides of the deck with siding materials or 1/8-inch wire mesh to reduce maintenance and deter ember entry. Do not use wooden lattice to enclose decks.</p>
16.	<p><i>Flowerboxes</i> Construct window flowerboxes of fire resistant materials and keep plants healthy. Do not allow dead plant material to accumulate and do not use wood, bark or rubber mulches. If wildfire is threatening and there is time, remove wooden flowerboxes from beneath windows.</p>
17	<p><i>Eaves</i> Open eaves often have gaps between the wall and the roof rafter blocking, roof sheathing and elsewhere. These gaps could allow embers entry into the attic. If this is an issue, cover open eaves with sheathing, such as plywood or cement board. Use tongue and groove joints or other intricate joint types and avoid use of butt joints.</p>
18	<p><i>Flowerbeds</i> Replace wood mulches with noncombustible types and remove plant debris, including dried grass and flowers, dead leaves and needles, and dead branches from flowerbeds next to the house, other buildings, and next to wooden fences. Replace ornamental junipers with low growing deciduous shrubs or flowers under irrigation.</p>
19	<p><i>Vehicles</i> Close vehicle windows and park in the garage or away from the house.</p>
20	<p><i>Garage Door</i> Many people store combustible materials in their garage. If there are gaps between the door and the opening, embers could enter the garage and start a fire. Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight a fit as possible with the door frame. Consider using trim around the garage door opening to reduce the size of gap openings. To check for gaps, close the garage door at night and turn on an interior light. Standing outside, look for light shining through. These are areas where embers could enter. Close the garage door if wildfire is threatening.</p>
21	<p><i>Garbage Cans and Recycling Bins</i> Use metal garbage cans covered with tight fitting lids near the house or other buildings. Move newspaper recycling bins indoors or away from the house.</p>
22	<p><i>Wooden Fences</i> Maintain wooden fences in good condition and create a noncombustible fence section or gate next to the house for at least five feet.</p>