THREE STEPS TO A COST-EFFECTIVE FIRESMART™ HOME

Step 1: Maintain what you’ve got at least twice per year

Do-it-yourself, $0 - $300

1. Remove needles, leaves and other debris from gutters, roof surfaces, decks and balconies. Regularly clean vents.
2. Remove all combustible ground cover (mulch and plants) within 1.5 m of the house perimeter.
3. Remove combustible materials (firewood and lumber) stored within 10 m of house perimeter and under decks.
4. Mow the lawn to <10 cm and plant low-growing, well-spaced shrubs and other fire-resistant plants.
5. Prune trees to create a 2 m clearance from the ground to the lowest tree branches.

Step 2: Complete simple upgrades

$300 - $3,000

1. Replace worn or missing weather stripping on all doors including garage doors.
2. Add a non-combustible 3 mm screen to all external vents, except dryer vents.
3. Create a 15 cm ground-to-siding non-combustible clearance (e.g., install cement board or metal skirting).
4. Install non-combustible fencing within 1.5 m of the house (cement fiber, metal, chain link or stone).
5. Install non-combustible ground surfaces within 1.5 m of the house (mineral soil, rock, concrete or stone).

Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades

Work with a contractor, $3,000 - $30,000

1. Install Class A fire-resistant roof covering (e.g., cement fibre, metal or asphalt shingles).
2. Install non-combustible siding (stucco, metal, stone, cement fibre board).
3. Install multi-paned or tempered glass windows and exterior fire rated doors.
4. Retrofit all deck components to be fire-rated, with a continuous surface.
5. Remove conifer trees that are within 10 m of the house.

Note: not all actions will be applicable to each home. Completing these steps does not guarantee the prevention of fire.