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-pane 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 eliminate the risk of home or structure ignition.

Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation
University of Waterloo
FireSmart Canada

Scan the code or click the link for additional resources at www.intactcentre.ca