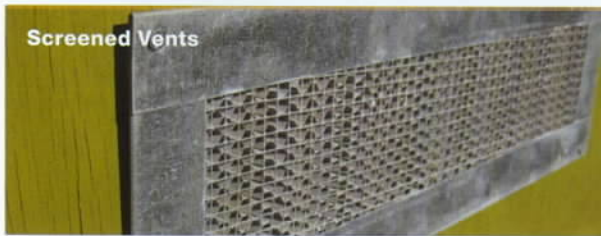


# Making Your Home Fire Resistant – Harden Your Home

**C**onstruction materials and the quality of the defensible space surrounding the structure are what increases the chance of survival in a wildland fire. Embers from a wildland fire will find the weak link in your home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor. Below are some measures you can take to safeguard your home.

## Home Improvements



### BALCONIES and DECKS

Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces or the **undersides** of decks and balconies, ignite the material and enter the home through walls or windows.

To harden your home even further, consider protecting your home with a **residential fire sprinkler system**. In addition to extinguishing a fire started by an ember that enters your home, it also **protects you and your family year-round** from any fire that may start in your home.

### ROOFS

Roofs are the **most vulnerable surface** where embers land because they can lodge and start a fire. Roof valleys, open ends of barrel tiles and rain gutters are all points of entry.

### EAVES

Embers can gather under **open eaves** and ignite combustible material.

### VENTS

Embers can enter the **attic** or other concealed spaces and ignite combustible materials. Vents in eaves and cornices are particularly vulnerable, as are any unscreened vents.

### WALLS and FENCING

Combustible siding or other combustible or overlapping materials provide surfaces or crevices for embers to nestle and ignite.

**Combustible fencing** can become engulfed and if attached to the home's sidings can carry the fire right to the home.

### WINDOWS and DOORS

Embers can enter **gaps in doors, including garage doors**.

Plants or combustible storage near windows can be ignited from embers and generate heat that can break windows and/or melt combustible frames.