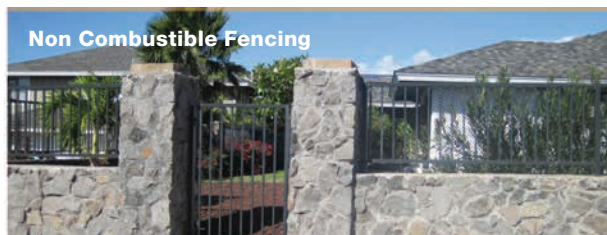
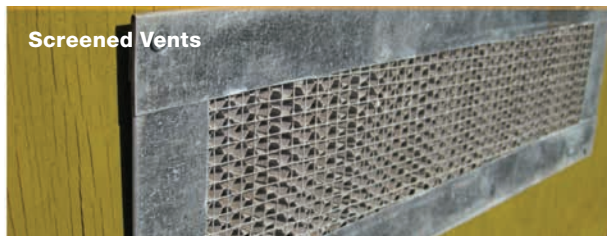
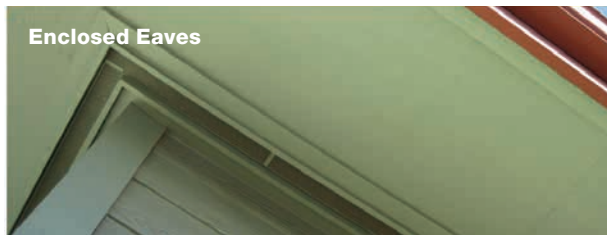


Making Your Home Fire Resistant – Harden Your Home

Construction 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.

Tour a Wildland Fire Prepared Home

Home Site and Yard: Ensure you have 100 feet of managed vegetation around your home or to your property line. This area may need to be enlarged in severe fire hazard areas. This may mean looking past what you own to determine the impact a common slope or neighbors' yard will have on your property during a wildland fire. Remember the importance of routine maintenance. Keep woodpiles, propane tanks and combustible materials away from your home and other structures such as detached garages, barns and sheds. Ensure trees are away from power lines.

Roof: Use a Class A fire-rated roof covering, such as composition shingles, metal or tile, when roofing or re-roofing. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to minimize ember intrusion. Clear pine needles, leaves and other debris from your roof and gutters. Prune tree branches within 10 feet of your roof.

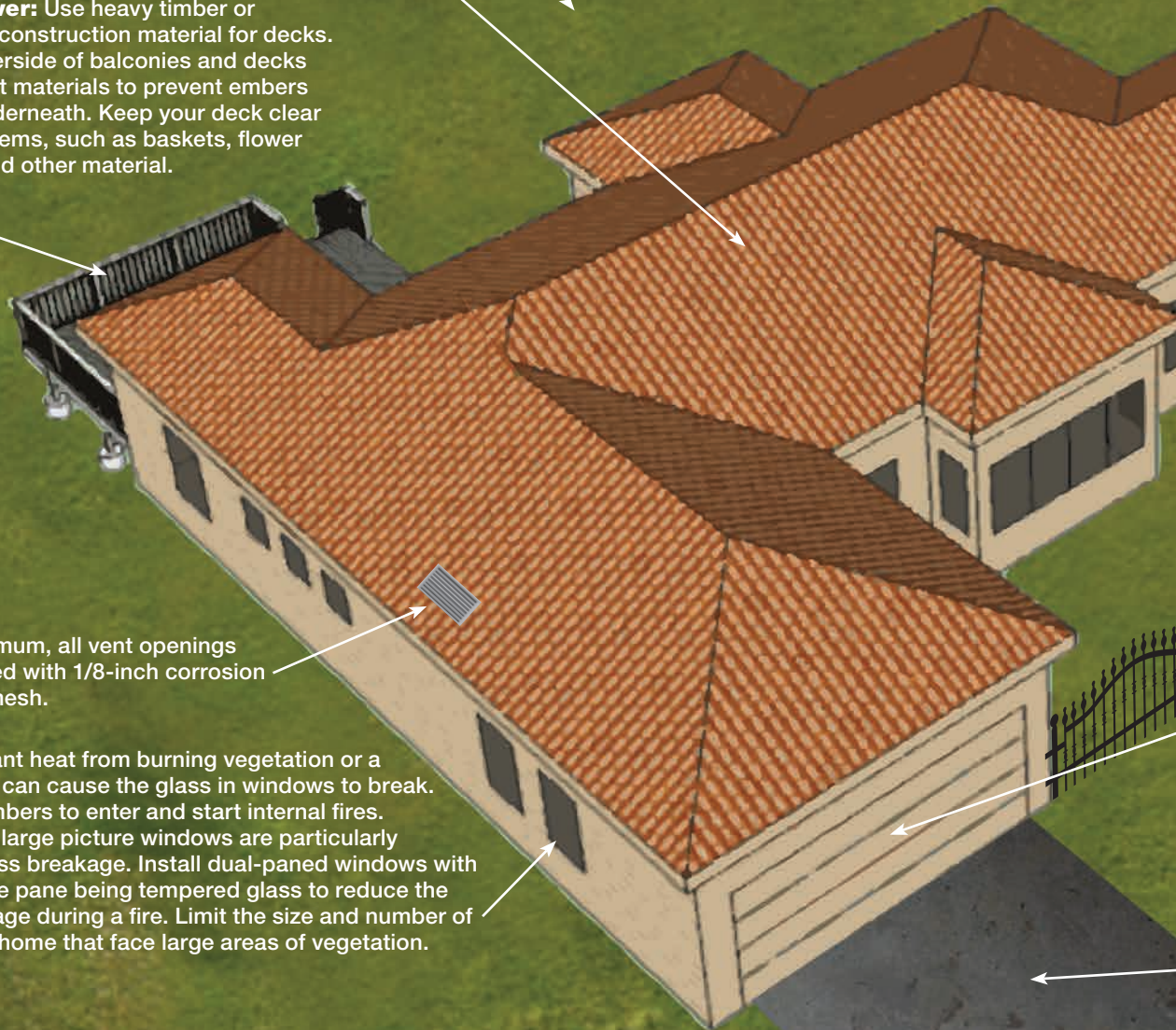
Deck/Patio Cover: Use heavy timber or noncombustible construction material for decks. Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials to prevent embers from blowing underneath. Keep your deck clear of combustible items, such as baskets, flower arrangements and other material.

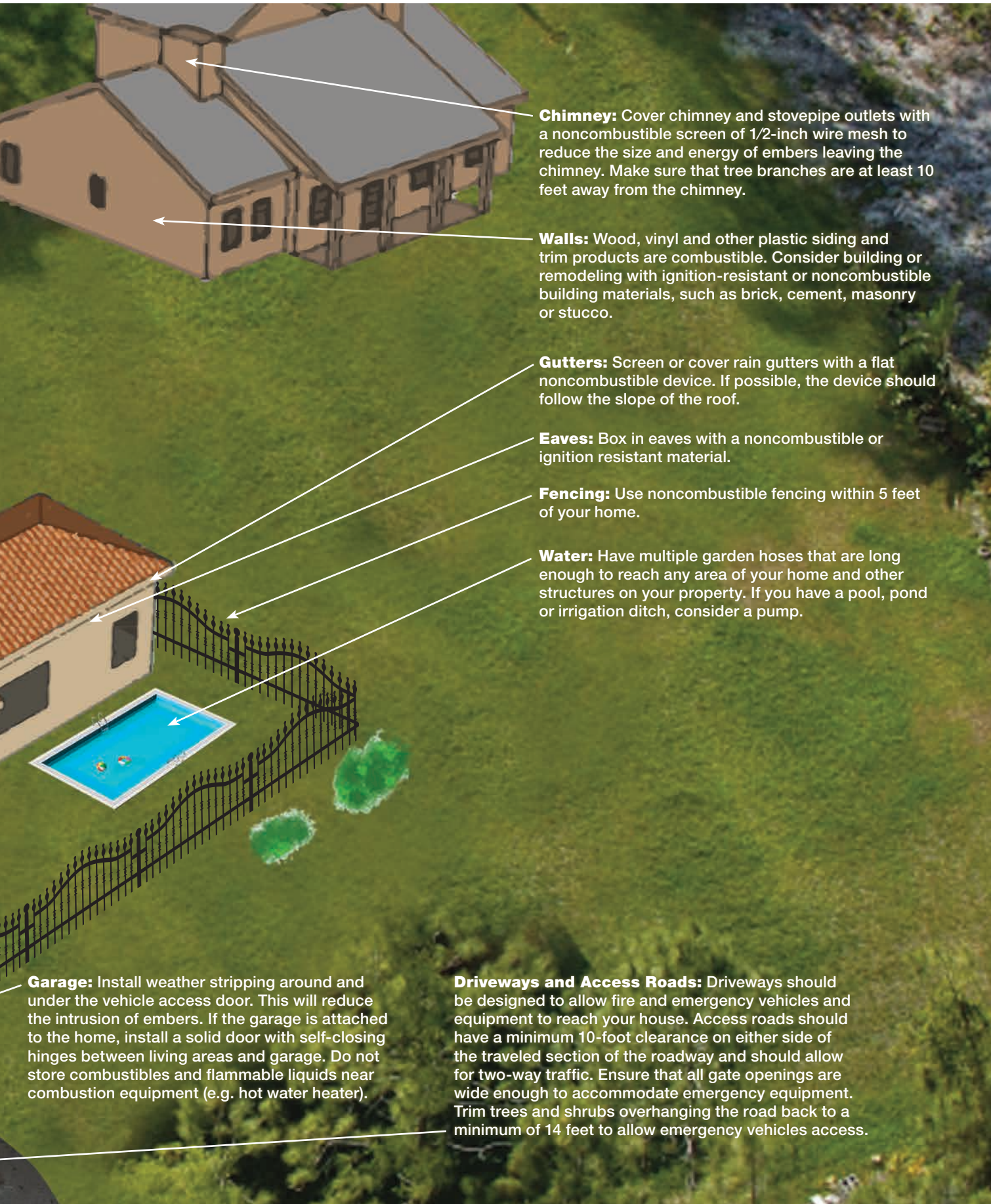
Vents: At a minimum, all vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch corrosion resistant metal mesh.

Windows: Radiant heat from burning vegetation or a nearby structure can cause the glass in windows to break. This will allow embers to enter and start internal fires. Single-pane and large picture windows are particularly vulnerable to glass breakage. Install dual-paned windows with a minimum of one pane being tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage during a fire. Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation.

Inside: Keep working fire extinguishers on hand. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and near bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

Address: Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road and constructed of noncombustible materials. Reflective numbering is recommended.





Chimney: Cover chimney and stovepipe outlets with a noncombustible screen of 1/2-inch wire mesh to reduce the size and energy of embers leaving the chimney. Make sure that tree branches are at least 10 feet away from the chimney.

Walls: Wood, vinyl and other plastic siding and trim products are combustible. Consider building or remodeling with ignition-resistant or noncombustible building materials, such as brick, cement, masonry or stucco.

Gutters: Screen or cover rain gutters with a flat noncombustible device. If possible, the device should follow the slope of the roof.

Eaves: Box in eaves with a noncombustible or ignition resistant material.

Fencing: Use noncombustible fencing within 5 feet of your home.

Water: Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach any area of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool, pond or irrigation ditch, consider a pump.

Garage: Install weather stripping around and under the vehicle access door. This will reduce the intrusion of embers. If the garage is attached to the home, install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and garage. Do not store combustibles and flammable liquids near combustion equipment (e.g. hot water heater).

Driveways and Access Roads: Driveways should be designed to allow fire and emergency vehicles and equipment to reach your house. Access roads should have a minimum 10-foot clearance on either side of the traveled section of the roadway and should allow for two-way traffic. Ensure that all gate openings are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment. Trim trees and shrubs overhanging the road back to a minimum of 14 feet to allow emergency vehicles access.