

# Don't let outbuildings become a source of ignition

## OUTBUILDINGS

- Locate outbuildings at least 30 feet from any other building. Outbuildings can burn for long periods of time, produce a lot of heat, and have been shown to ignite other buildings that are in close proximity.
- Use fire-resistant building materials on your outbuildings.
- Apply fire-resistant landscaping principles around your outbuildings, no matter their size.



*Wildfires do not simply spread across the landscape, rather, they move from one fuel source to the next by transferring heat. If you remove the readily available fuel sources, a wildfire cannot continue to burn. To give your home the best chance for survival, apply these fire-resistant construction concepts along with fire-resistant landscaping principles.*

**[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword "fire"**

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# Fire-Resistant BUILDINGS

## Your home can survive a wildfire



When building a new home or updating an existing one simple design adjustments can greatly improve a building's chances of surviving a wildfire.





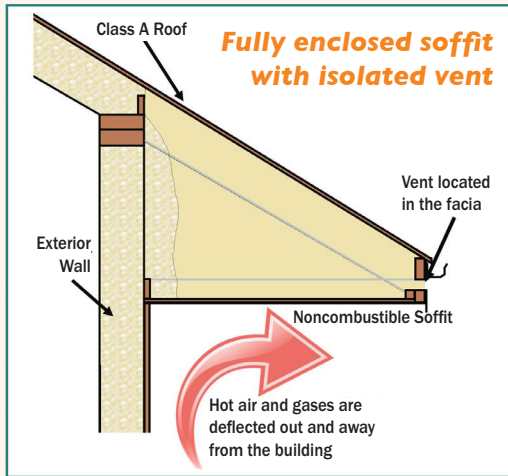


# Reduce your home's vulnerability to wildfire

Creating a fire-resistant building design can mean the difference between a home that withstands a wildfire and one that does not. Here's how:

## ROOF DESIGN

- Use Class A or noncombustible roof coverings.
- Enclose eaves with horizontal (rather than sloping) soffits constructed of fire-resistant materials to limit heat exposure to rafters.



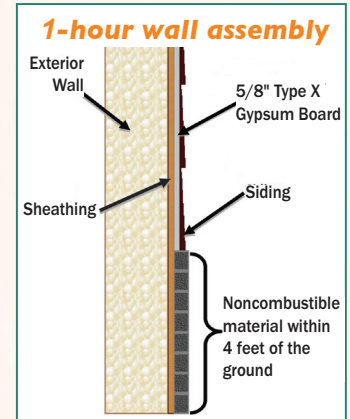
- Cover vents with noncombustible wire mesh that has openings less than 1/8 inch to prevent embers from entering the attic.
- Use noncombustible gutters and downspouts and consider installing gutter guards to prevent buildup of pine needles and leaves.

## WINDOWS

- As windows can crack or break when exposed to extreme heat, consider insulated, double-paned windows.
- Smaller windows tend to hold glass in place even when fractured, thus providing more protection than larger windows.
- Tempered glass is resistant to high heat and can provide better protection as it is less likely to fail during a wildfire.
- Use metal window screens rather than plastic or fiberglass.

## EXTERIOR WALLS

- Use fire-resistant materials such as composites, stone, brick, stucco or heavy logs.
- Should you choose to use combustible material:
  - 1) Underlay the siding with a 1-hour-fire-resistant material such as Type X gypsum board.
  - 2) Install noncombustible materials on surfaces within four feet of the ground.



## DECKS

- Decks offer a place for embers to collect and act as a heat trap catching hot gasses from oncoming fire. Consider fire-resistant materials such as concrete, Heavy-Timber construction, fire-resistant composites, or fire-retardant-treated wood.
- Skirt the underside of elevated decks, or install wire mesh with 1/8 inch or less openings to prevent debris buildup underneath and to keep embers out in the event of a wildfire.
- For decks higher than four feet off of the ground, add a patio, concrete pavers, or gravel underneath.

