

KEY ISSUES:

Many homes have attached decks, which can spread fire directly to the home when ignited during a wildfire. The materials used to build the deck, combustible materials stored on and under the deck, and the vegetation around it all contribute to how vulnerable a deck will be to ignition during a wildfire. Decks are an important consideration because of their proximity to homes and buildings.



What factors contribute to the vulnerability of decks and porches?

- Slotted deck surfaces allow combustible debris to accumulate below the deck. The accumulation of combustible debris under the deck makes ignition from embers easier.
- Most deck boards are combustible, including dimensional wood and plastic.

Consider these guidelines when planning an upgrade to your deck and as a part of your ongoing home maintenance:

- Replace combustible deck/porch material with non-combustible or fire-rated materials.
- Cap deck joists with flashing or foil tape.
- Your local area may have specific minimum requirements that must be followed for new decking materials.
- Sheath or screen the exposed underside of decks/porches/foundation with fire-resistant materials, such as fibre cement board or metal screening.
- Create and maintain a non-combustible surface under and for 1.5 metres around the deck /porch.
- Move combustible materials stored underneath and on top of the deck to greater than 10 metres from home or store inside a FireSmart-mitigated building.
- Check the condition of combustible wood deck boards and replace or repair boards that show signs of rot or have large cracks.



Refer to the FireSmart Canada Home Development Guide for more information.