

KEY ISSUES:

The roof is the most vulnerable component of your home. Sparks and burning embers from a wildfire can travel long distances and quickly ignite flammable roofing material and/or combustible debris on the roof.



What factors contribute to the vulnerability of your roof?

- Un-rated roofing materials (untreated wood shakes or shingles) create a dangerous combination of combustible material and/or crevices for burning embers to lodge, and provide no protection from wildfire.
- As asphalt-composition shingles age and curl, more openings are exposed and may increase places for embers to accumulate.
- Your roof is a large surface where combustible debris can accumulate. When a wildfire threatens your home, wind-blown embers can land on your roof and ignite this debris, potentially putting your home at risk.

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

- Fire-rated roofing materials (ULC/ASTM) provide the best protection from wildfire.
 - > **Class A** fire-rated roofing materials provide a high level of protection.
 - > **Class B** fire-rated roofing materials provide a moderate level of protection.
 - > **Class C** fire-rated roofing materials provide a lower level of protection.
- Replace un-rated or old roofing materials with fire-rated roofing materials that meet or exceed the local authority requirements. Class A roofing material is recommended and includes asphalt-composition shingles, metal, or slate/clay/concrete tile.
- Your area may have a specific minimum fire rating that must be followed for new roofing materials. Avoid wood shakes or shingles.
- Clean leaves, pine needles and other combustible debris from your roof regularly.
- Inspect your roof often and replace or repair any shingles that are curling or in poor condition.
- Roof features, such as skylights and solar panels, could be an entry or accumulation point for wind-blown embers. Keep these features properly maintained and clear of combustible debris.

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