

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

ROOFS



INFO

Confirm you have a Class A roof in good condition in accordance with Building Code requirements to best protect your home from wildfire.



WILDFIREHOMEHARDENING.ORG

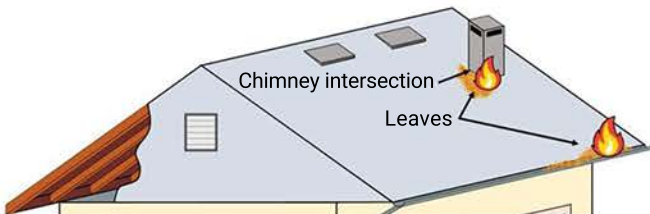
Why are roofs important?

If you can afford it and you don't currently have a Class A roof in good condition, it is the most important home hardening upgrade you can do and should be a top priority. Homes ignite in one of three ways: embers/firebrands, radiant heat exposure or direct flame contact. Wind blown embers are responsible for the majority of building ignitions, and roofs are a critical part protecting your home.

If you don't currently have an up to code Class A roof, and especially if you have an older wood shake roof, it is vulnerable to wind-blown ember ignition. Common stand-alone Class A roof coverings include: clay tiles, slate, asphalt fiberglass composition shingles, concrete and flat/barrel-shaped tiles, and some metal roofing materials.

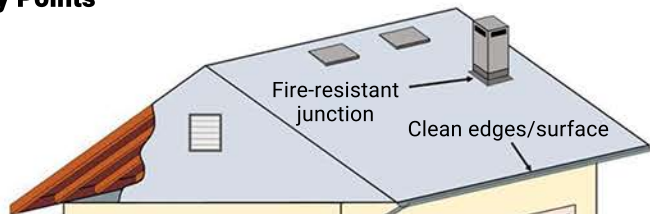


WATCH VIDEO at
[WILDFIREHOMEHARDENING.ORG](https://www.wildfirehomehardening.org)

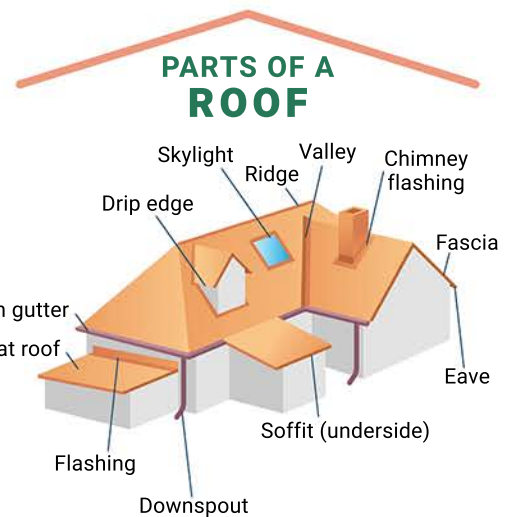


Roof Vulnerability Points

Source: ucanr.edu



How to protect your roof



PROTECT YOUR HOME

LEARN MORE AT [WILDFIREHOMEHARDENING.ORG](https://www.wildfirehomehardening.org)



The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council's mission is to promote wildfire safety in Santa Barbara County through education and action. This Wildfire Home Hardening Guide was generously funded through the Cal Fire Climate Investment Grant for the Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program.



✓ **Roofs should be Class A fire-rated, such as asphalt composition shingles. If you're unsure about your roof's rating, hire a professional roofer to make a determination.**

Roof covering fire ratings are Class A, B, C, or unrated; with Class A providing the best performance. Common Class A roof coverings include asphalt fiberglass composition shingles, concrete, or flat/barrel-shaped tiles. Some materials have a "by assembly" Class A fire rating which means additional materials must be used between the roof covering and sheathing to attain that rating. Examples of roof coverings with a "by assembly" fire rating include aluminum, recycled plastic and rubber and some fire-retardant wood shake products. If a wood shake roof does not have the manufacturer's documentation specifying the fire retardant, assume it's untreated.

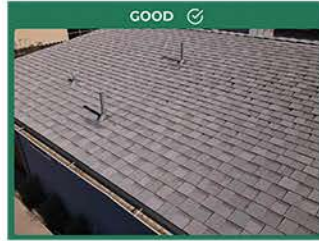
Examples of different types of Class A roofs



Tile



Concrete tile



Class A composite asphalt



Combustible wood shake

✓ **Remove debris and any overhanging limbs on the roof and in the gutters at least twice a year, or more often if necessary, and fill in and seal gaps and openings below tiles.**

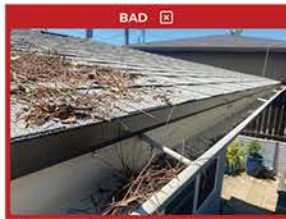
Even if you have a Class A roof, vulnerabilities are found at roof to wall edges and intersections where they can be ignited by embers (which is also where debris generally collects), so these areas need to be regularly inspected and maintained. Fill in openings where possible at joints or other vulnerable places such as around roof tile openings with sealed bird stops to reduce ember ignition potential. The more intersections and shapes included in the roof design, the more opportunity there will be for leaves, needles, and other vegetative debris to accumulate and create ignition potential on your roof. Check for gaps between your roof covering and sheathing. Learn more about how to keep your gutters less vulnerable to ignition at wildfirehomehardening.org.



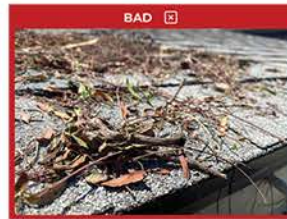
Tile roof with birdstops



Class A composite shingle rooftop with no debris



Roof with combustible debris at joints and gutters



Combustible vegetation debris on roof



Overhanging combustible limb

✓ **Protect your chimney outlet, connection and opening**

Windborne embers and firebrands can enter your home through your chimney or stovepipe outlet if it is not protected and maintained correctly. Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with metal spark arrestors that are securely attached and made of welded or woven wire mesh screens, and keep sure tree branches at least 10' away from any chimney outlet. Install metal-flashing at roof-to-siding intersection to reduce the vulnerability of the chimney.

✓ **Periodically inspect your roof and exposed areas under eaves and soffits to ensure construction materials are in good condition. Roofs can ignite when eaves and soffits are vulnerable.**

✓ **Cover vents with metal 1/8" or smaller size mesh to protect from ember intrusion. Vents are a critical vulnerability point when it comes to home ignition.**

✓ **Maintain your skylights and solar panels and ensure no debris collects around them. Skylights can be a vulnerable portion of your roof.**

