

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

FENCING



INFO

Your fences can be a major threat to home ignition, and can act like a wick, carrying fire directly to your eaves and siding or even to the home nearest to you.



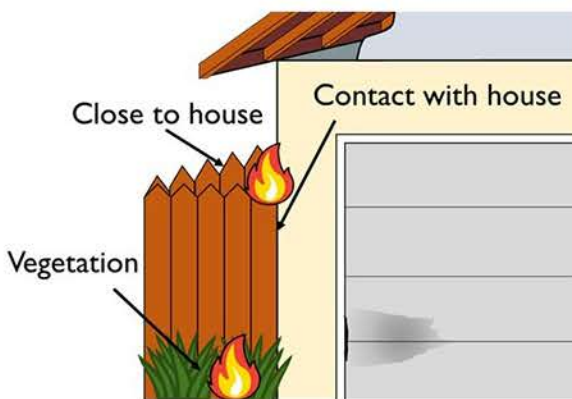
WILDFIREHOMEHARDENING.ORG

Why are fences important?

Your fences can be a major threat to home ignition, and can act like a wick, carrying fire directly to your eaves and siding or even to the home nearest to you. If you have wooden or vinyl fencing, it should not have contact within 5 feet of your home. Common wooden post-and-board fences can collect embers during a wildfire and act as a horizontal ladder fuel by allowing the fire to travel along the fence, and vinyl fences can melt. If a combustible fence is left connected with direct contact, it can quickly ignite from other portions of your yard, and wick flames up to and into your home. The 5 foot stretch of fence closest to your home should be replaced with a non-combustible material in order to avoid this type of ignition. One solution is to install a metal gate for the last 5 feet that attaches to your home. Masonry, concrete, stone, metal, and hardwood landscape fences and walls are effective ignition-resistant materials to consider and can help to deflect flames away from a building.

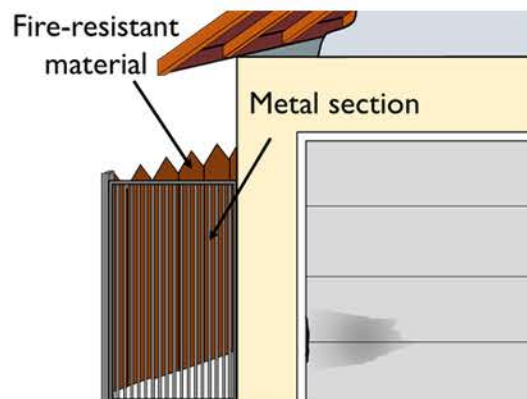


WATCH VIDEO at
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Combustible fencing should not connect to your home

Source: ucanr.edu



Protect your home by replacing combustible fencing with non-combustible fencing within 5 feet

Source: ucanr.edu

PROTECT YOUR HOME

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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.



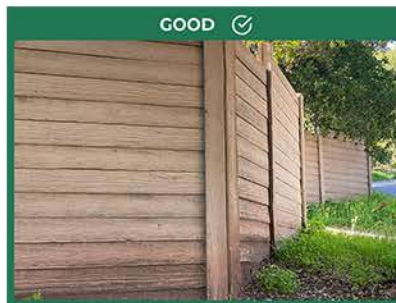
REGIONAL
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PROGRAM



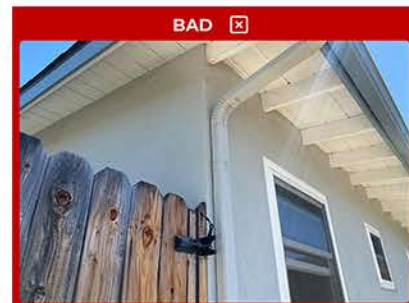


Replace flammable fencing with noncombustible fencing material whenever possible, especially if it attaches directly to the home

Check to make sure that fences or gates that connect to structures are made with noncombustible materials such as masonry, concrete, stone, metal, or hardwood. These types of fences and walls are effective ignition-resistant materials to consider and can help to deflect flames away from the home.



Noncombustible composite fence

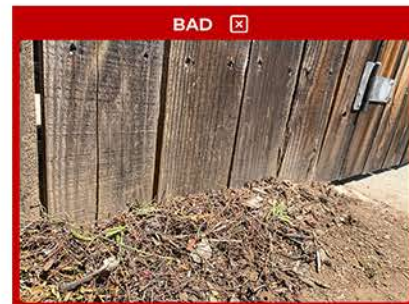


The old wood fence that connects directly to this home is a major risk.



Keep the area at the base and near your fence clear of debris

Flame spread to the building will be more likely if fine vegetation fuels (i.e. pine needles, leaf litter and small twigs) have accumulated. Avoid placement of any type of combustible mulch such as wood chips near the fence. No combustible materials such as wood chips should be allowed to accumulate or be placed in or around the fence, since they can act as a horizontal ladder fuel by allowing the fire to travel along the fence.

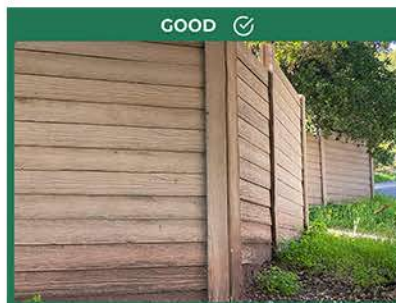


Combustible vegetation at the base of a wooden fence



Choose a fence that is less likely to ignite

Choose a fence design that is a non-combustible material.



Noncombustible composite fence



Metal noncombustible fence



Vinyl fencing is vulnerable to wildfire

Although vinyl fencing is a cost-effective way to fence in your yard, it is vulnerable to wildfire. Be careful when considering vinyl fencing-it can melt and burn. Vinyl fencing is not vulnerable to ember exposures alone but can burn when subjected to flame exposures from burning debris. Vinyl fencing will deform if subjected to radiant heat. If you have vinyl fencing, make sure to replace any sections that are within 5 feet of your home with a non-combustible material, such as metal.



Open lattice vinyl fence can melt

