PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

SIDING

WILDFIREHOMEHARDENING.ORG

INFO
The type of siding you have can either protect your home or make your home more exposed to fire.

Why is siding important?

Siding (what the external walls of your home are covered with) can either protect your home or make your home more exposed to fire. If your home has combustible siding, it can ignite or melt and become a conduit for flames to enter vulnerable parts of your home, such as windows or the under-eave area, and stud cavities (then potentially entering into your attic). If siding is ignited, it can move flames and/or embers to the horizontal or vertical lap joints of your home and allow flames to enter.

WATCH VIDEO at
WILDFIREHOMEHARDENING.ORG

Combustible siding can also be ignited by other building components, such as decks or fences, vegetation, or radiant heat from another structure (within 30 feet of your home). Thus, it is best to have non-combustible siding on your home, such as stone, stucco, metal (no aluminum), concrete, or brick. However, if that isn't feasible, there are several things you can do to protect your home if you have combustible siding.

Ignition Vulnerability Points for Siding
Source: ucanr.edu

PROTECT YOUR HOME
LEARN MORE AT WILDFIREHOMEHARDENING.ORG

FireSafe COUNCIL
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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.

CAL FIRE SINCE 1885
RWMP REGIONAL WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAM
CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS
Cap and Trade Dollars at Work

If possible, replace all combustible siding with noncombustible materials

While this major upgrade to your home is costly, it is a long-term investment to protect your home against wildfire. Non-combustible siding on your home, such as stone, stucco, metal, concrete, or brick are optimal choices. In particular, if you have older wooden siding, this is an important consideration.

Stucco example PROTECTED

Noncombustible metal siding

Composite wood siding

Metal siding

Stone siding

Wood shingle siding

Incorporate a noncombustible area in Zone 0 - the 0-5 foot zone of your home

Combustible materials stored next to siding

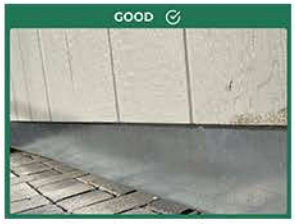
Combustible vegetation leading to siding

If you currently have combustible siding, such as vinyl, wood or composite materials, incorporating a noncombustible or low-combustible zone within the 0-5 foot zone next to your home will reduce the vulnerability of your siding and home to ignition. Paying careful attention to the area immediately adjacent to your home will help to protect your siding.

Regardless of the type of siding you have, considering noncombustible landscaping and a clear zone immediately adjacent to the home is important. These actions will increase your home's resilience to ignition from a fire.

Add metal flashing and/or fire retardant gypsum board to the base of your combustible siding

If you choose not to replace combustible siding, the use of metal flashing and fire-retardant gypsum board at its base can help to reduce ignition potential. Six inches or more of vertical noncombustible material should be maintained between the ground and the start of the siding.



Composite siding with flashing

Combustible fence leading to noncombustible siding

Consider the other home hardening element upgrades that connect to your siding and address them as possible, such as: eaves, fencing, decks, and windows

The example below shows a wooden fence that adjoins stucco siding, however, in order to protect the home, the last 5 feet of fence should not be a combustible material that adjoins the home. However, if there was combustible siding and a combustible fence, it would be highly problematic. See the fences section for more details on how to address combustible fencing that leads up to your siding.

Caulk and plug all gaps and joints

Make sure all joints and areas around your siding in all areas of your home are tightly sealed and caulked if gaps exist.

Siding gaps around garage