



Building Back Better

Wildfire Mitigation Tips

When you rebuild after a wildfire, you can include design and construction features that reduce wildfire risks.

This tip sheet shares simple, practical ideas to think about while rebuilding to lower wildfire risks and build back stronger and safer.

Plan mitigation early in the process

Think about wildfire mitigation measures early in the planning and design phase of your project. Doing so can lower costs and help to prevent design problems later.

Follow local rules and guidelines

Local bylaws and building codes may affect the materials and design you can use.

Choose mitigation features that already meet safety and permit requirements. Doing so will help to avoid delays.

Choose fire-resistant building materials

The materials you choose can make a big difference in how your home endures a wildfire.

Roofing: Choose a Class A fire-rated roof such as metal, asphalt shingles, clay, concrete, or composite.

Exterior walls and siding: Use non-combustible or fire-resistant siding such as fibre cement board, brick, or stucco.

Decks, stairs, and railings: Use metal or other non-combustible materials for decking, railings, and stairs.

Protect eaves and vents from embers

Embers from nearby wildfires can enter a home through small openings in roofs, vents, or walls. Enclosing eaves helps prevent embers from entering the roof area and reduces the risk of fire spreading into the home.

Strengthen windows and doors against wildfire risk

Windows and doors play a critical role in wildfire protection. Strong, fire-resistant doors and windows can help keep heat, flames, and embers from entering the home.

- Install solid, fire-rated exterior doors.
- Use multipaned, tempered glass windows.
- Avoid large, single pane windows on the sides of the home with higher wildfire risk.

Design rooflines and drainage to reduce risk

Roof design and drainage can limit where debris collects. Doing so reduces wildfire risk by helping to keep embers and burning materials away from the home.

- Design rooflines to prevent debris buildup.
- Choose non-combustible gutters and downspouts such as galvanized steel, aluminum, or copper.
- Install gutter guards.
- Make sure roof drainage moves debris away from the home.

Balance mitigation with cost and rebuild priorities

Focus on improvements that offer the best protection for your budget. Align them with insurance and project scope.

Document your mitigation measures

Clear records help to make sure your work is easy to verify, maintain, and reference. This is helpful for insurance, inspections, or future improvements.

- Keep clear records on all mitigation work.
- Include notes, plans, product details, ratings, and photos in your records.

Not legal advice: This guide is for general information only and is not legal advice. Do not rely on it as legal advice or fail to take any action based on this information. Always seek professional legal assistance for your situation.

Copyright © 2026 by Canadian Red Cross. All rights reserved.