



READY, SET, GO!

# HOME HARDENING



The main objective of Home Hardening is to give your home the best chance to survive a wildfire. Home Hardening addresses the most vulnerable components of your home, which includes the construction materials that make up your home and the quality of defensible space surrounding it.



Prepare (harden)  
your home now  
before a wildfire  
starts!



Orange County  
Fire Authority

[www.ocfa.org/RSG](http://www.ocfa.org/RSG)

All new homes built in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) are required to meet the minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the home's ability to resist ember intrusion, direct flames, and radiant heat. Homes can be retrofitted to these new building requirements using the recommendations listed below:

1. **Roof** - Ember-resistant material. Gaps are filled with ignition-resistant material. No loose roof flashing.
2. **Eaves** - Eaves are maintained with all gaps filled with caulking and painted over.
3. **Vents** - 1/8-inch metal mesh screen or ember proof vents.
4. **Chimney** - 1/2-inch spark arrestor screen. Clear tree branches and/or vegetation at least 10 feet away from opening.
5. **Gutters** - Install gutter guards. Remove combustible debris on a regular basis.
6. **Exterior Siding** - Exterior siding is maintained with all gaps filled with caulking and painted over.
7. **Doors** - Weather-stripping around door frames and doors adjusted for a "tight fit" within the frame.
8. **Windows** - Multi-pane windows, with at least one pane being tempered, and metal framing.
9. **Fences** - Non-combustible or ignition-resistant material. Maintain fencing by keeping vegetation clear.
10. **Patio Covers** - Ignition-resistant material. Fill all gaps and crevices. Install metal flashing between the patio and outside wall.
11. **Balconies & Decks** - Ignition-resistant material. Fill all gaps between the deck and outside wall with caulking or metal flashing. Remove or replace combustible items stored above and below.
12. **Immediate Zone** - No woody vegetation located within 5 feet of the home. No combustible items located within 5 feet of the home (trash bins, patio furniture, storage, mulch, etc.)

Refer to the California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 7A and the California Residential Code (CRC) for permits and specific requirements.

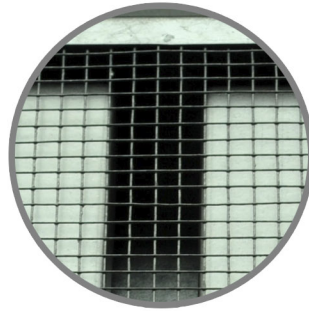
For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.



1. Roof



2. Eaves



3. Vents



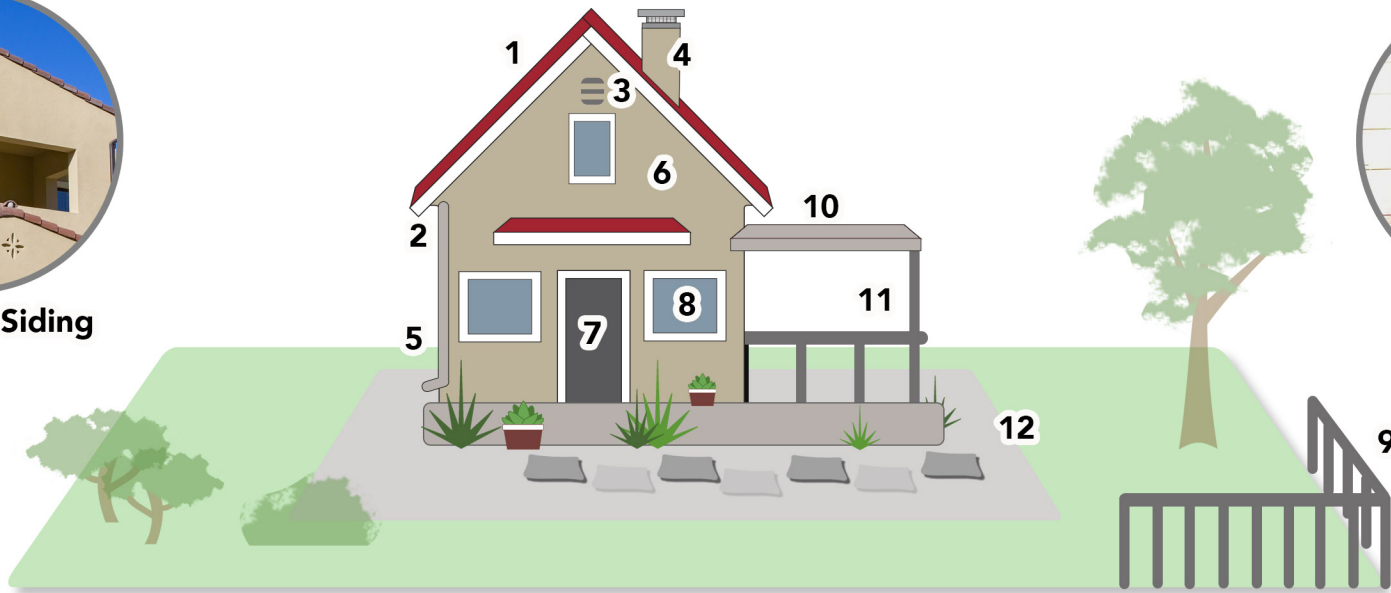
4. Chimneys



5. Gutters



6. Exterior Siding



7. Doors



8. Windows



9. Fences



10. Patio Covers



11. Balconies & Decks



12. Immediate Zone