

Three Steps to a Cost-Effective FireSmart™ Home.

Step 1: Maintain what you've got at least twice per year, (do-it-yourself, \$0 to \$300).

- 1.1) Remove needles, leaves, and other debris from gutters, roof surfaces, decks and balconies. Regularly clean vents.
- 1.2) Remove all combustible ground cover such as mulch and plants within one and a half meters of the house perimeter.
- 1.3) Remove combustible materials, such as firewood and lumber, stored within ten meters of the house perimeter and under decks.
- 1.4) Mow the lawn to less than 10 centimeters and plant low-growing, well-spaced shrubs and other fire-resistant plants.
- 1.5) Prune trees to create a two-meter clearance from ground to the lowest tree branches.

Step 2: Complete simple upgrades, (\$300 to \$3,000).

- 2.1) Replace worn or missing weather stripping on all doors including garage doors.
- 2.2) Add a non-combustible three-millimeter screen to all external vents, except dryer vents.
- 2.3) Create a 15-centimeter ground-to-siding non-combustible clearance, for example install cement board or metal skirting.
- 2.4) Install non-combustible fencing within 1.5 meters of the house, examples of non-combustible fencing would be cement-fiber, metal, chain link, or stone.
- 2.5) Install non-combustible ground surfaces within 1.5 meters of the house, examples of non-combustible surfaces would be mineral soil, rock, concrete or stone.

Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades, (work with a contractor, \$3,000 to \$30,000).

- 3.1) Install Class A fire-resistant roof covering, examples of fire-resistant roof coverings are cement fibers, metal or asphalt shingles.
- 3.2) Install non-combustible siding for example, stucco, metal, stone, cement fiber board.
- 3.3) Install multi-pane or tempered glass windows and exterior fire rated doors.
- 3.4) Retrofit all deck components to be fire-rated, with a continuous surface.
- 3.5) Remove conifer trees that are within 10 meters of the house.

Note: not all of these actions will be applicable to each home. Completing these steps does not eliminate the risk of home or structure ignition.

Find out more at intactcentre.ca.