

KEY ISSUES:

The gutters on your home provide a place for combustible debris to accumulate, and open eaves create an entry point for sparks and embers. Combustible debris can accumulate at the vents and openings on your home and be ignited by embers during a wildfire.

**What factors contribute to the vulnerability of gutters, eaves and vents?**

- Unscreened vents can allow heat and embers to enter a building and ignite.
- Open eaves create an entry point for sparks and embers.
- Combustible debris such as leaves and pine needles can accumulate in gutters and embers can ignite the accumulated debris.

Consider these guidelines when planning an upgrade to your gutters, eaves, and vents and as part of your ongoing home maintenance:

- Screen over or behind vents with 3 millimetre non-combustible mesh OR install ember-resistant ASTM rated vents.
- Ensure there is a non-combustible drip edge and soffit, or flashing installed between the upper extent of your gutters and the roof covering so there is no exposed combustible material.
- Your local area may have specific minimum requirements that must be followed for gutters, eaves and vents.
- Inspect your vents and openings regularly to ensure the vents are in good repair and remove any accumulated combustible debris.
- Select a boxed-in or soffit-ed eave design for your home. Exposed or open eaves create an entry point for sparks and embers.
- Regularly remove debris from your gutters as sparks and embers can easily ignite these dry materials. Consider screening your gutters with metal mesh to reduce the amount of debris that can accumulate.



Refer to the FireSmart Canada Home Development Guide for more information.