



KEY ISSUES:

Some types of siding materials, such as vinyl, can melt when exposed to high temperatures, allowing the fire to reach the underlying wall components and penetrate the interior of the building.



What factors contribute to the vulnerability of exterior walls?

- Siding is vulnerable when it ignites and when flames or embers get into the cavity behind the siding.
- With inadequate ground-to-siding clearance, accumulated embers can ignite combustible siding directly.
- Combustible debris stored near the exterior walls of a home increases a building's vulnerability to ignition during a wildfire through direct flame contact or radiant heat exposure.

Consider these guidelines when planning an upgrade to your siding and as a part of your ongoing home maintenance:

- Replace combustible siding with non-combustible or ignition-resistant siding material. Stucco, brick, fibre cement boards/ panels and poured concrete all offer superior fire resistance.
- Your local area may have specific minimum requirements that must be followed for new siding materials.
- Examine your siding for locations where embers could accumulate or lodge. Maintaining and removing combustible debris, such as lumber, stored vehicles, branches, grass, leaves and firewood near the exterior walls will reduce a building's vulnerability to ignition during a wildfire.
- Ensure your siding is free of gaps, holes, or other areas where embers could accumulate, lodge or penetrate. Prioritize repairing any vulnerabilities identified on the exterior walls of your home.
- With inadequate ground to-siding clearance, accumulated embers can ignite combustible siding directly. Create a minimum of 15 centimetre vertical non-combustible material clearance between grade and combustible siding material.

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