

KEY ISSUES:

Combustible wood fences and boardwalks create a direct line to your home and can contribute to the spread of wildfire.



What factors contribute to the vulnerability of your fence?

- Wood fences offer zero fire resistance and can act as a wick directly to your home.
- Fence panels with gaps, such as wood slat fences, can allow embers to become lodged in the gaps and ignite the fence.
- Combustible materials (firewood, construction materials, etc.) and vegetation (combustible mulch, plants, shrubs, etc.) along the base of a combustible fence increase the likelihood of flame spread to a building.

Consider these guidelines when planning an upgrade to your fence and with your ongoing home maintenance:

- If a wood fence is installed, ensure there is at least a 1.5-metre non-combustible break between the wood portion of the fence and your home. Install a metal gate, for example, to break up the combustible fence and protect your home.
- Your local area may have specific minimum requirements that must be followed for new fence materials.
- Monitor the condition of a combustible wood fence closely. Repair or replace any fence panels or posts that show signs of rot or damage.
- Combustible debris near the fence should be cleared regularly and the lawn well maintained.

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

