In 2008, California implemented new fire-resistant building standards for homes in fire-prone regions.

An analysis of the homes in the path of the 2018 Camp Fire demonstrated the effectiveness of these measures: just 18 percent of homes built before 2008 were undamaged, compared to 51 percent of the homes built after 2008.

It is nearly impossible to make one’s home completely fireproof, but you can make it more fire-resistant. Based on California Building Code Chapter 7A and the recommendations of CAL FIRE and other fire prevention experts, here are measures you can take to **harden your home**.

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**PROTECT WHAT’S INSIDE YOUR HOME**

Your roof may be fireproof, but odds are the same can’t be said for what’s underneath it. Items like furniture, carpets and countless other household items are at risk when embers enter the home. The key is considering potential openings through which embers could enter your home and keeping them out.

- **CHIMNEY**
  Cover chimney and stovepipe outlets with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch metal mesh to prevent embers from entering and igniting a fire.

- **WINDOWS**
  Windows can be broken from the heat of a wildfire, creating an opening for flying embers. Install dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage.

- **DOGGY DOOR**
  Be sure it seals properly and remains closed during fire season.

- **GARAGE DOORS**
  Use weather stripping to seal gaps around openings like garage doors.

- **VENTS**
  Vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch metal mesh.

- **ROOF**
  Replace wood or shingle roofs with non-flammable materials like asphalt, clay, metal or slate.

- **EAVES AND SOFFITS (UNDERSIDE OF ROOF)**
  Protect eaves and soffits with ignition-resistant or non-combustible materials.

- **WALLS**
  When replacing wood siding products with ignition-resistant materials, remember to extend materials all the way from the roof to the foundation.

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Although a wildfire’s path of destruction can appear random, there are actions you can take that improve your home’s likelihood of survival.
CREATE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

It is important to create a buffer zone around your house to protect it from wildfires. Defensible space zones extend 100 feet from buildings and structures.

YARD MAINTENANCE AND PLANT SPACING
CAL FIRE has guidelines on how to maintain a defensible space around your home in Zone 1 (up to 30 feet) and Zone 2 (up to 100 feet).

FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPING
The strategic use of fire-resistant plants and materials can reduce the likelihood of fire spreading to your home. Features like a stone walkway can act as a fire break that protects your home from burning grass.

TO LEARN MORE WAYS TO HARDEN YOUR HOME, PLEASE VISIT READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG