

KEY ISSUES:

Flames and radiant heat can break the glass in a window and allow fire to enter the interior of a home. Gaps at the top, bottom and edges of exterior doors (front door, garage door, etc.) can allow embers to enter and ignite combustible materials within the home and garage.



What factors contribute to the vulnerability of windows and doors?

- Single-pane windows do not withstand as much heat as multi-pane or tempered glass windows.
- Combustible materials stored next to the windows on the exterior of a home can be ignited by embers and generate enough radiant heat to break the glass and allow fire to enter the home.
- Worn or damaged weather stripping around exterior doors can allow embers to enter the interior of a home or garage and ignite combustible materials.

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

- Use multi-pane, tempered glass windows, and close them when a wildfire threatens.
- Your local area may have specific minimum requirements that must be followed for new siding materials.
- Move combustible materials and vegetation at least 10 metres from the home.
- Ensure garage and exterior doors are properly fitted and that weather stripping is maintained to prevent gaps for ember entry.
- Your local area may have specific minimum requirements that must be followed for new window and door materials.



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