

CREATE FIRE-SMART LANDSCAPING

Fire-Smart Steps



Harden Your Landscape and Help Protect Your Home

Defensible Space are areas intentionally planned and maintained to reduce fire danger and to allow firefighters ample room to address embers and spot fires before they grow.

The two key factors in creating a fire-smart landscape are **Planning and Maintenance**.

Planning takes into account the distance combustible materials like plants, decks, and other common landscape items located from your home and built structures.

Maintenance is about keeping your landscape well-groomed, hydrated, trimmed, and correctly mulched. Growing an Earth-friendly garden increases the odds that your property and garden will survive a nearby wildfire.

FIRE-SMART CHECK LIST

1) Know your evacuation route.

Keep it cleared of vegetation so fire fighters can gain access in the event of an emergency.

2) Start at the house and work out.

Contact your local fire agency for advice on how to harden your home.

3) Evaluate the 5 foot perimeter surrounding your house.

What attracts fire? Look for small things like leaves in corners or near the siding of the house. Write down what you need to do to eliminate combustible materials closest to your house. Be aware of prevailing winds, slopes and plantings near windows and doors. Plants should be low-growing, non-woody, and under 18 inches tall. They should also be sparsely planted and well-hydrated.

4) Develop a plan.

Use the 3 zones of defensible space as well as plant spacing and maintenance guidelines.

5) Implement the plan.

Get help and necessary equipment and materials. Aim to implement your plan before conditions become dry in summer. Remove all material and debris. Chip or dispose of them through your local waste site. Learn more about upcoming community chipper days.

6) Monitor and maintain.

Stay on top of maintenance. Keep garden pruned, watered, and free of excess debris. Keep common fire hazards away from the house. Learn about fire-smart choices for mulch.

7) Work with neighbors.

Burning homes are the biggest risk to surrounding homes. Aim for community-wide defensible space. If expense is a concern, start small and seek help with labor and materials.



SOUTHERN MARIN
FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT

WWW.SMFD.ORG

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