

Walk your property with this sheet and a phone. Tick a box for every item, take the photos listed on the last page, then send it all in at mitigatemyhouse.com/self-inspection. A real person reads every submission and sends back a prioritised, plain-language list of what to fix first. It is free and there is no obligation to hire anyone.

- A gold dot marks the items that remove the most risk for the least money. Start there.

Everything on this sheet can be checked from the ground. Do not get on the roof or a ladder for this.

YOUR PROPERTY

NAME	DATE OF WALK-THROUGH	PHOTOS TAKEN
PROPERTY ADDRESS	YEAR BUILT (APPROX.)	
EMAIL	PHONE	LOT SIZE (APPROX.)
SLOPE? FLAT / MODERATE / STEEP	WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?	

ZONE 0 THE EMBER-RESISTANT ZONE

The first 5 feet from every wall, deck, and stairway

Highest-value zone on the property. Most homes lost to wildfire are not hit by a wall of flame - they are ignited by wind-blown embers landing here and finding something to burn.

	DONE	NEEDS WORK	UNSURE
● No bark, wood chips, or other combustible mulch within 5 ft of any wall	☐	☐	☐
● No shrubs, plants, or vegetation growing against the house	☐	☐	☐
● Roof and gutters clear of dead leaves and pine needles	☐	☐	☐
● No firewood, lumber, or cardboard stored against the wall	☐	☐	☐
Trash and recycling bins stored outside the 5 ft strip	☐	☐	☐
● Nothing stored underneath decks, porches, or exterior stairs	☐	☐	☐
Bottom 6 inches of exterior wall is a noncombustible material	☐	☐	☐
Any wood fence touching the house has its last 5 ft in metal or masonry	☐	☐	☐
Doormats, cushions, and planters near doors are noncombustible	☐	☐	☐
Tree branches at least 10 ft from chimney or stovepipe	☐	☐	☐
Propane tanks and fuel cans outside the 5 ft strip	☐	☐	☐

Notes - anything you were unsure about, or could not see

ZONE 1 LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN

5 to 30 feet, or to your property line

Breaks up the fuel so a ground fire arriving at your property has to stop and start rather than run straight at the house.

	DONE	NEEDS WORK	UNSURE
● Dead plants, dry grass, and weeds cut or removed	☐	☐	☐
Dead leaves and needles cleared from yard, roof, and gutters	☐	☐	☐

● No tree branches overhang the roof	☐	☐	☐
Branches 10 ft from chimney and from neighbouring tree canopies	☐	☐	☐
● Ladder fuels removed - no shrubs growing directly under trees	☐	☐	☐
Lower tree limbs pruned 6 to 10 ft off the ground	☐	☐	☐
Firewood and lumber moved out past 30 ft	☐	☐	☐
Sheds, playsets, and outbuildings have 10 ft of clearance	☐	☐	☐
Propane tank has 10 ft of clearance down to bare soil	☐	☐	☐
Lawn mowed and, where irrigated, kept green	☐	☐	☐

Notes - anything you were unsure about, or could not see

ZONE 2 THE REDUCED FUEL ZONE

30 to 100 feet, or to your property line

Slows the fire and drops flame height before it reaches Zone 1, and gives firefighters somewhere safe to work. Fire moves faster uphill, so homes above a slope need wider spacing.

	DONE	NEEDS WORK	UNSURE
Annual grass cut to 4 inches or less	☐	☐	☐
Fallen leaves, needles, and small branches no more than 3 in deep	☐	☐	☐
● Dead and downed trees removed	☐	☐	☐
Trees and shrubs spaced apart - wider on steeper ground	☐	☐	☐
Wood piles have 10 ft of clearance down to bare soil	☐	☐	☐
● House number legible from the road in reflective characters	☐	☐	☐
Driveway passable by a fire engine, with a turnaround	☐	☐	☐

Notes - anything you were unsure about, or could not see

THE HOUSE ITSELF

Home hardening - the building, not the landscape

Clearing vegetation matters, but the building envelope is what actually stops an ember. Vents are the single most common entry point into a structure.

	DONE	NEEDS WORK	UNSURE
● Every attic, eave, and crawlspace vent covered with 1/8 in metal mesh	☐	☐	☐
Roof edges, ridge, and tile ends have no gaps an ember could enter	☐	☐	☐
Gutters are screened or covered	☐	☐	☐
● Garage door seals to the ground - no daylight visible underneath	☐	☐	☐
Crawlspace or foundation skirting is solid and noncombustible	☐	☐	☐
Deck underside is enclosed or screened with 1/8 in metal mesh	☐	☐	☐
I know my roof material and roughly its age	☐	☐	☐
I know whether my eaves are open (rafters visible) or boxed in	☐	☐	☐
I know whether my windows are single or dual pane	☐	☐	☐

I know my siding material

☐☐☐*Notes - anything you were unsure about, or could not see***PHOTO CHECKLIST**

15 to 20 photos - tick each as you take it

Hold the phone horizontally. For wide shots, back up until you can see roof to ground in one frame. For close-ups, put a shoe or tape measure in frame for scale. Daylight, overcast is ideal. Do not include people, license plates, or your neighbours' property.

Zone 0

- ☐ Each side of the house, roof to ground (4)
- ☐ Base of wall where siding meets ground (2)
- ☐ Deck or porch from the side, showing underneath
- ☐ Where any fence attaches to the house
- ☐ Anything stored within 5 ft of the wall

Zone 1

- ☐ From each corner of the house looking outward (4)
- ☐ Any tree within 10 ft of roof or chimney
- ☐ Firewood stack and its surroundings
- ☐ Each shed or outbuilding
- ☐ Propane tank, if you have one

Zone 2

- ☐ Wide shot looking away from the house, each direction (4)
- ☐ Any slope above or below the house
- ☐ Driveway from the road, and the house number

House

- ☐ Roof from ground level, each side
- ☐ One attic or crawlspace vent, close up
- ☐ Underside of an eave
- ☐ One window, and siding where it meets the ground
- ☐ Garage door closed, low and straight on

*Anything else we should know? Recent work already done, a deadline from your insurer, or a question you want answered.***WHEN YOU ARE DONE**

1. Go to mitigatemyhouse.com/self-inspection
2. Fill in the form at the bottom of that page, or attach this sheet if you filled it in on screen.
3. Upload your photos and press send.

A real person reads it and emails you a written summary, usually within 3 business days: what needs attention, ranked by how much risk it removes per dollar, in plain language. Much of what shows up is work you can do yourself in a weekend, and we will tell you which items those are.

PROPERTY SKETCH

Optional, but it tells us a lot that photos cannot

A rough sketch beats a precise one. Put the house in the middle and mark whatever is nearby: the driveway and which way the road runs, trees and heavy brush, the woodpile, sheds, the propane tank, and any slope with an arrow pointing downhill. North arrow if you know it. Stick figures are fine.

Filling this in on screen instead of printing? Print just this page to sketch, or describe the layout below.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This checklist and the review that follows are a remote review of the photographs and information you provide. This is not a professional inspection. We do not visit your property and cannot evaluate anything not visible in your photos.

This is not an insurance inspection, a determination of insurability, a code compliance ruling, a defensible space inspection under the law of any state, an IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home evaluation, or a substitute for an assessment by a certified wildfire mitigation specialist or your local fire district. Insurance carriers and fire agencies make their own determinations and are not bound by anything we tell you.

Completing these items does not guarantee that your home will survive a wildfire, that your policy will be renewed, or that you will qualify for any discount or program.

MitigateMyHouse is a referral service. If you ask to be matched with a contractor, we are paid a referral fee by that contractor. This checklist and the review are free and carry no obligation.

Checklist items are drawn from CAL FIRE defensible space guidance, the IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home standard, and the NFPA Firewise USA home ignition zones. Where this sheet and a current official standard differ, follow the standard.