

Where do I begin?

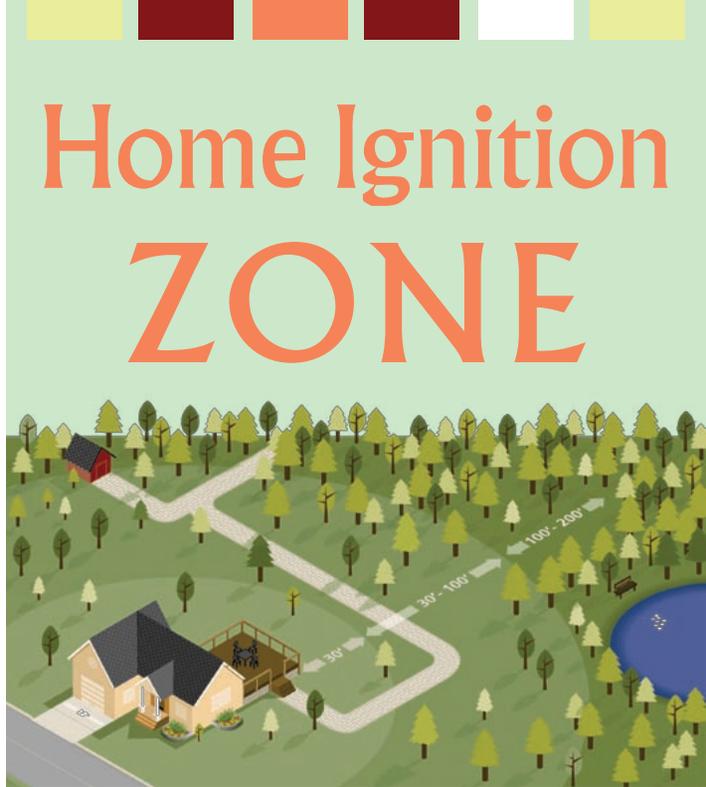
Reduce fuel in your home ignition zone. Start making improvements in (1) building materials, (2) landscaping and (3) maintenance. Remember, a fire needs fuel to burn. By reducing or changing the fuels around your home, for example pruning trees, cleaning out gutters and raking leaves, you are starving a wildfire of the fuel it needs to burn.

Start right away.

Past fires have shown that the little things can make a big difference when it comes to your home surviving a wildfire. Maintenance suggestions can be implemented quickly and for little or no cost. You can tackle bigger projects as time and resources allow. Every step you take, no matter how small, makes your home that much safer.

7 Steps to a Safer Home Ignition Zone

- 1 Remove pine needles and leaves from roof and gutters.
- 2 Rake debris from under deck and around wood fences.
- 3 Keep lawn clean and green. Rake 30 feet around buildings.
- 4 Remove tree branches that overhang the roof.
- 5 Move firewood 30 feet away from buildings.
- 6 Prune dead branches off trees and shrubs.
- 7 Remove branches of evergreen trees up to a height of 6-10 feet.



Protecting Your Home from Wildfire

When it comes to protecting your home from wildfire, the most important firefighter is you!

Learn more at:
firewise.org
dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire

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PUB-FR-449-2009 Home Ignition Zone

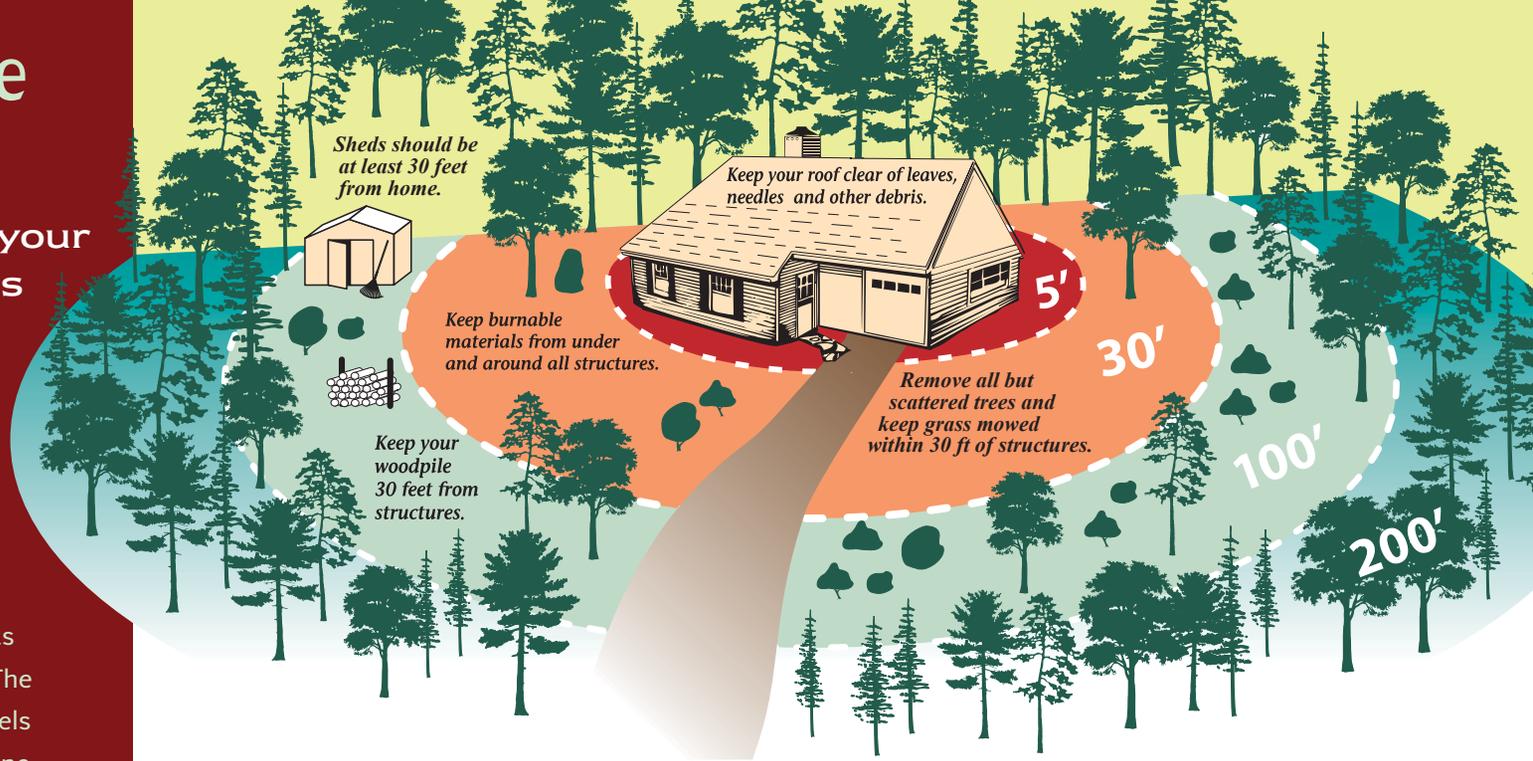


What is the home ignition zone?

The home ignition zone is your home and its surroundings out to 100-200 feet.

Research has shown that the characteristics of buildings and their immediate surroundings determine the risk of ignition.

That's why preparing your home and the area around your home, known as the home ignition zone, is so important. The steps you take to reduce or change the fuels in your home ignition zone could determine whether or not your house survives a wildfire. For example, raking leaves out of your yard may prevent a surface fire from burning right up to your house. A wind-blown ember which lands in a gutter free of pine needles will not have any fuel to ignite and so will extinguish. Since you, as the homeowner, are the only one who has authority to make changes around your home, you have a vital role in protecting it.



ZONES

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

| | |
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| <p>3-5 feet around your home</p> | <p>Remove anything that can burn, including mulch, grass, plants, shrubs and any flammable man-made objects. If you do plant here, choose deciduous plants and shrubs over evergreens. Bare dirt or rock mulch is a better choice than wood mulch.</p> |
| <p>30 feet around your home</p> | <p>Keep it lean, clean and green by mowing often, pruning lower branches, removing dead vegetation and watering plants. Choose deciduous trees and shrubs over evergreens.</p> |
| <p>30-100 feet from the home</p> | <p>Plants should be low-growing, well-watered and less flammable. Leave 20 feet between trees. Favor deciduous trees and shrubs over evergreens.</p> |
| <p>100-200 feet from the home</p> | <p>For homes built on slopes and in pine plantations, remove build-up of woody debris on the forest floor. Thin trees to leave space between tree canopies.</p> |

Make your home ignition zone more resistant to wildfire!