



Protecting Your Home From Embers

Wildfire history and laboratory testing has shown that homes threatened by wildfire burn in two ways: radiant/direct flame contact resulting from fuels and vegetation close to the home and ember intrusion into void spaces⁽¹⁾. Intense heat in conjunction with strong winds can transport ash and embers miles away from the active fire perimeter causing spot fires and home ignitions. These embers can collect against the sides of homes and then be drawn into crawlspaces, eaves and attics as the home naturally “breathes”. Many homes constructed before 2008 have vents with large enough openings that ember entry is allowed.

While it’s difficult to predict when and where the next wildfire will strike, the good news is homeowners can proactively retrofit their vents to reduce the possibility of ember intrusion. These materials can be purchased at most local hardware stores for under \$5 per vent. A small expense for your most important asset.

Reduce Ember Intrusion by:

- Installing 1/8th inch mesh over or behind all crawlspace, round bird blocking holes, eave and gable vents.
- Install prefabricated vents with 1/8th inch mesh and louvres.
- Install ember resistant vents such as Brandguard⁽²⁾ or Vulcan Vents⁽³⁾.
- Look for products listed by CA Office of the State Fire Marshal and accepted by your local building official.

Examples of Compliant Venting



Crawlspace Vent with Mesh



Frieze Vent with Mesh



Gable Vent with Mesh



1 Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety — <https://ibhs.org/wildfire/ember-characteristics/>

2 Brandguard Vents — <https://www.brandguardvents.com/>

3 New Cal Metals Incorporated (Vulcan Vents) — <https://www.vulcanvents.com/>