



Reducing Fire Ignitions in Gutters

Leaf accumulation in gutters increases the risk of direct flame contact with roof structures resulting from wind-blown fire embers.⁽¹⁾ Embers, also called fire brands, can be produced by a wildfire not in the immediate vicinity of your neighborhood. These embers can land on roof coverings and, in turn, collect in gutters. If there are combustible materials such as pine needles or leaf litter, ignitions can occur, exposing the roof deck and fascia boards to flame contact as illustrated in picture below. While we cannot control ember production or fall out, we can reduce fuel sources in gutters by installing non-combustible gutter guards such as: Easy On, Leafguard and Gutterglove.

Another benefit of installing gutter protection is to reduce the number of times you, or a contractor, will have to climb ladders or walk on the roof. In the United States, an average of 164,000 emergency room visits result from ladder falls.⁽²⁾ Roof coverings can also be easily damaged by foot traffic. An investment in gutter guards will reduce the risk of fire as well decrease exposure to falls occurring on your property. Bi-annual roof and gutter inspections are still recommended.

Reducing Ignitions In Gutters:

- Clean the gutter system and install non-combustible guards
- Bi-annually have the roof and gutters inspected and cleared of any accumulated debris



Gutter Ignition Example:⁽³⁾



Demonstration conducted by KRCR, Cal Fire and Byers Leafguard.®

1 Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety— https://disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Wildfire-Retrofit-Guide-California_IBHS.pdf

2 Fall Statistics— International Association of Certified Home Inspectors— <https://www.nachi.org/ladder-safety.htm>

3 Cal Fire Gutter Article— <https://krcrtv.com/archive/gallery/fire-demonstration-reveals-rain-gutter-fire->