



SPRING CHECKLIST

Spring: It's that time of year when all that beautiful but combustible growth starts to happen on your property. It's the perfect time to evaluate your landscape, do necessary maintenance, or re-imagine your vegetation layout to meet fire-resistant standards.

- Do a complete spring cleaning of all planting beds, shrubs, and tree branches to remove dry debris.
- Use a fire-smart landscaping approach when planting new items: choose low-growing, high-moisture plants like flowers and ground covers.
- When planting new trees and shrubs, keep them in small groupings to avoid creating lines of combustible vegetation.
- Clean your roof and gutters from leftover winter leaves. Consider installing metal gutter screens.
- Replace dry grass or flammable shrubs in your yard with noncombustible materials like rock, stone pavers, cement, bare earth, gravel, or sand.
- Prune all trees up to 6 feet from the ground (or, if they're shorter, up to $\frac{1}{3}$ of their total height).
- Remove piles of leaves under your deck; remove or relocate small plants or bushes growing closer than 10 feet from the deck.
- Check your tree branches: make sure they're at least 10 feet away from any building.
- Relocate plants growing directly under your windows to at least 5 feet away from your house.
- If you have a larger lot of land, be sure you remove any flammable debris from your yard that goes into the required 100 feet of defensible space around your neighbor's house.

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