

# Traveling During Wildfire Season? Here's How to Prepare Your Home

Vacation time is here, but so is wildfire season. Before you head out of town, take these practical steps to prepare your home for wildfire – just in case. Remember most homes lost to wildfire start from burning embers that ignite small fires that spread to the house. The following steps lower the risk of that happening to your home, even if you are miles away.

*Vacation time is here, but so is wildfire season.*

**Outdoor Preparation:** Walk around the exterior of your house and take action!

**Leaves and litter:** Use your green bin to remove material from roofs, gutters, and around the base of walls.

**Wicker lawn furniture and cushions:** Bring furniture and cushions inside.

**Wood piles or debris near structures:** Move wood at least 30 feet from your house.

**Flammable doormats:** Bring inside or change to a noncombustible option for fire season.

**Trash and recycling bins:** Move bins at least 30 feet away from all structures.

**Dead or dying vegetation:** Remove from your yard and Zone Zero, the first five feet next to your house.



**Secure Openings:** Close all windows and garage doors. One of the main ways houses ignite during wildfires is through embers flying in through open windows. Securing these openings can prevent embers from entering and starting a fire inside your home.

**Gates and Hoses:** Open side gates if they are made of wood or other combustible material. This prevents the gates from becoming a pathway for fire to spread to the house. Additionally, leave your garden hose in an obvious place near the house for easy access by firefighters or neighbors in case of an emergency.

# Prepare now to give you peace of mind while you are on your vacation!

**Document Safety:** Upload important documents to the Cloud or store them in a fireproof safe. This ensures that, in the event of a fire, your vital information remains secure and accessible, helping you to recover more quickly.

**Pet Preparedness:** If you are leaving pets behind, ensure their caretaker knows where to find their Go-Kit, which should include a carrier, food, medication, and any important documents. This preparation ensures that your pets can be quickly evacuated if necessary.

By taking these steps, you can leave for your vacation with the peace of mind that you've done everything possible to protect your home from wildfires. Remember to stay connected even while you're away by signing up for Alert Marin and checking the Marin County Emergency portal.

**Learn more at [firesafemarin.org](https://firesafemarin.org)**

