

Bushfire-Ready Property Checklist

for householders

In most bushfire conditions we face in Tasmania, a well prepared property is:

- ✓ More resilient to bushfire, even if not being actively defended
- ✓ Easier for firefighters to access and defend (if they are available)
- ✓ Easier for you to actively defend yourself, if you have planned and prepared to do so, and
- ✓ A safer place to shelter than an unprepared property, if the worst happens and you can't get out in time.

This checklist is for everyone, no matter what your plan. However, if you decide to stay and defend, pay close attention to **Personal capacity**, **Potential hazards**, **Water supply** and **Maintenance activities**. Complete your Bushfire Plan with comprehensive detail in **Step 3: My plan to stay and defend** and consult the **Building for Bushfire** pages at [Fire.tas.gov.au](https://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

For more information and to help you complete your Bushfire-Ready Property Checklist, look at these TFS resources:

[Bushfire Safety Guide](#)

[Bushfire-Ready Gardens](#)

[Bushfire-Ready Homes](#)



Clear space - clear the area around your home where vegetation is managed to reduce the intensity of a bushfire. Clear space can reduce the amount of direct flame contact and radiant heat affecting your home.



Vegetation management - reduce the amount of flammable material (eg. leaf litter, bark) and cut back trees and shrubs to reduce the intensity of an approaching bushfire.



Water supply - reliable, independent water supply is critical if you plan to stay and defend your property. Even if you plan to leave early, consider whether you could defend your home if plans changed.



Access - if your house is set back from the road, ensure there is enough space for a fire truck to enter and turn around. Your property also needs to be easily identifiable from a clear, visible street number.



Building improvements - your home and any adjoining structures must be well constructed to deal with the impact of bushfire, including having openings screened or sealed to prevent embers from entering.



Maintenance activities - testing firefighting equipment, cleaning gutters, removing leaf build-up, mowing lawns and keeping the garden free of dead plant material can help to keep your property bushfire-ready.



Personal capacity - give serious consideration to the physical and psychological risks of staying and defending your property. It will be hot, scary, difficult to see and breathe, and generally hard, exhausting work.



Potential hazards - if you plan to stay and defend, be aware of potential hazards, like electrical supply, firewood or LPG, that could increase risk to your safety.

	Helps protect against flame contact	Helps protect against radiant heat	Helps protect against ember attack	Critical for staying to defend your property
Clear space	✓	✓		✓
Vegetation management	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water supply			✓	✓
Access				✓
Building improvements		✓	✓	✓
Maintenance activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Personal capacity				✓
Potential hazards				✓

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Clear space

	YES	NO	N/A
Have you removed combustible materials from on, under and around the house?	☐	☐	☐
Have you pruned low hanging branches from shrubs and trees, and removed highly combustible shrubs?	☐	☐	☐
Have you removed any buildup of leaves, bark and other bush litter?	☐	☐	☐

Vegetation management

	YES	NO	N/A
Have you replaced highly combustible plants with flame resistant plants?	☐	☐	☐
Have you used flame resistant mulch close to your house and buildings?	☐	☐	☐
Have you removed plants from against the walls of your house and buildings?	☐	☐	☐

Water supply

	YES	NO	N/A
Do you have water for firefighting (e.g. a steel or concrete 10,000 litre tank)?	☐	☐	☐
Does the tank have a Storz 65mm adaptor/coupling?	☐	☐	☐
Do you have a petrol or diesel water pump? And spare fuel?	☐	☐	☐
Are water pipes and fittings metal?	☐	☐	☐
If water pipes and fittings are plastic, are they buried underground?	☐	☐	☐

Access

	YES	NO	N/A
Is your street number clearly visible?	☐	☐	☐
Is a fire truck able to enter your property and turn around?	☐	☐	☐
Is your driveway at least 4m wide?	☐	☐	☐
Is your driveway clear to a height of 4m?	☐	☐	☐

Building improvements

	YES	NO	N/A
Have you sealed gaps (more than 2mm) around house and other buildings?	☐	☐	☐
• Roof, windows, doors, vents	☐	☐	☐
• Under the house, deck etc	☐	☐	☐

Maintenance activities

	YES	NO	N/A
Have gutters been cleaned?	☐	☐	☐
Have you tested your firefighting equipment?	☐	☐	☐
Have you cleaned up leaf litter, long grass, pruned dead branches etc?	☐	☐	☐
Have combustible materials been moved away from the house and buildings?	☐	☐	☐

Personal capacity

	YES	NO	N/A
Are you physically and emotionally prepared to defend your property?	☐	☐	☐
Have you prepared appropriate clothing for defending your property?	☐	☐	☐
Have you prepared a bushfire emergency kit?	☐	☐	☐
Do you have drinking water and food available?	☐	☐	☐

Potential hazards

	YES	NO	N/A
Are LPG bottles away from vegetation? Can they be moved away from buildings?	☐	☐	☐
Have you stored firewood away from your house and buildings?	☐	☐	☐
Will pets and livestock be safe and not pose a threat to firefighters?	☐	☐	☐