



Firewise Landscaping Checklist

NOTE: All Firewise suggestions are voluntary upon the owner, but all elements must still comply with "The Settings of Black Mountain Architectural Design Standards and Construction Guidelines".

When designing and installing a firewise landscape, consider the following:

- Local area fire history.
- Site location and overall terrain.
- Prevailing winds and seasonal weather.
- Property contours and boundaries.
- Native vegetation.
- Plant characteristics and placement (duffage, water and salt retention ability, aromatic oils, fuel load per area, and size).
- Irrigation requirements.

To create a firewise landscape, remember that the primary goal is fuel reduction.

- When appropriate, provide a fire equipment accommodating perimeter around the house.
- Widely space and carefully situate the trees you plant.
- Take out the "ladder fuels" - vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. This arrangement can carry fire to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.
- Give yourself added protection with "fuel breaks" like driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns.

When maintaining a landscape:

- Keep trees and shrubs properly pruned. Prune all trees so the lowest limbs are 6' to 10' from the ground.
- Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- Mow the lawn regularly.
- Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
- Store firewood away from the house.
- Be sure the irrigation system is well maintained.
- Use care when refueling garden equipment and maintain it regularly.
- Store and use flammable liquids properly.
- Dispose of smoking materials carefully.
- Become familiar with local regulations regarding vegetation clearances, disposal of debris, and fire safety requirements for equipment.
- Follow manufacturers' instructions when using fertilizers and pesticides.



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