



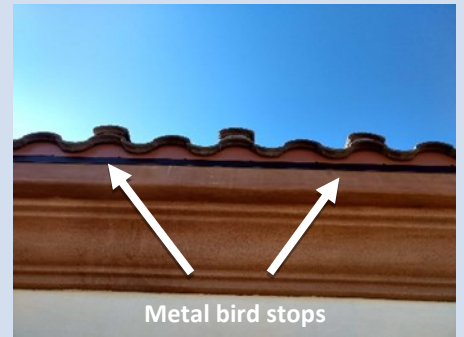
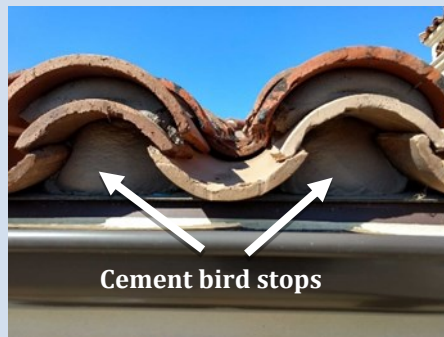
Building Construction Features

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Studies and tests have shown how hardening your structure will increase the chances of it surviving a wildfire. Embers, which can be burning pieces of wood or vegetation, and small flames are the main way the majority of homes ignite in a wildfire. That is why it is extremely important for homeowners to pay close attention to the first five feet around a structure as embers can fly more than a mile in a wildfire. Removing all potential ignition sources such as mulch, vegetation, and patio furniture will only benefit you! Being proactive now and hardening your structure before the next wildfire, can potentially save it from becoming a statistic.

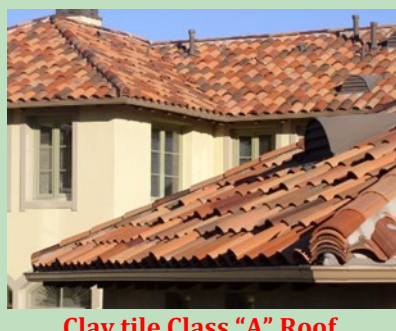
Fire resistive bird stops prevent embers from traveling under your roof tiles and igniting your roofing paper, any leaf litter or debris, or any potential bird's nests on fire. Examples of acceptable bird stops are cement, metal, and clay.



Eave vents are no longer allowed as embers "roll" under the eaves and enter your attic space igniting your attic. It is recommended that property owners replace their existing attic vents with ember resistant vents. Brandguard, Ember's Out, O'Hagin Fire & Ice Line, and Vulcan are all companies that manufacture ember resistant attic vents.



Wood shake shingle roofs are no longer allowed as they are dry and ignite easily from just embers alone. Instead, consider a Class "A" fire resistive roofing material such as tile, slate, asphalt, concrete shingle, or metal.



All structures having a chimney, flue, or stovepipe shall have an approved spark arrester comprised of 12-gauge wire mesh with openings no larger than ½ inch.



Appropriate spark arrester

Exterior wall siding should be non-combustible along with the first five feet of fences attached to a structure. Examples of non-combustible siding and fences are stucco, concrete, iron, steel, and fire treated lumber (from the mill).



Non-combustible wall and siding



This handout is not an endorsement of any company nor does it guarantee your structure surviving a wildfire. It is merely a guide to help you prepare for the upcoming wildfire season.