

# WILDFIRE **PREPARED**

— A PROGRAM OF IBHS —

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES



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## TECHNICAL UPDATES

### Wildfire Prepared Home Plus™ Designation Requirements

#### Exterior Glass (Windows, Skylights & Glass within Doors)

- Changed one of the options to two tempered panes of glass based on continuous research from IBHS.

All exterior windows, skylights, and glazed openings within doors must comply with one of the following requirements:

- Multipaned glass with at least two tempered panes
- Glass with a minimum of 20-minutes fire-resistance rating when tested in accordance with NFPA 257
- Glass blocks (windows only)

#### Exterior Doors

- Added an additional option to help homeowners reach the Plus designation. Exterior doors must be constructed with noncombustible or ignition-resistant material, be solid, and have a metal threshold.

All exterior doors must comply with one of the following requirements:

- Exterior surface or cladding of the exterior doors must be solid, have a metal threshold, and be constructed with noncombustible or ignition-resistant material, such as:
  - Metal
  - Solid hardwood
  - Fiberglass
- Exterior door assembly shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to NFPA 252.
- Doors made of combustible material are permissible provided a noncombustible exterior storm door is installed as the outermost door.

#### Fences

- Changed back-to-back fencing requirement to 5 feet apart based on newly released (in December 2022) NIST research.

In addition to the requirements listed above, back-to-back fencing (meaning separate fences that are closer than 5 feet apart) is not permitted. Meeting this requirement may necessitate coordination with neighboring parcels to eliminate duplicative fences that can trap debris between them creating a fire conduit.

## Decks

- Added an additional retrofit option.

In addition to the requirements listed above, decks must comply with one of the following requirements:

- All deck components including posts, joists, railings, stairs, and walking surfaces are constructed with noncombustible materials.
- Deck walking surfaces constructed with a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material\* such as metal or light-weight concrete; railings within 5 feet of the home constructed of a noncombustible material, including where railings attach to the home; and deck posts with a minimum of 6 vertical inches of noncombustible material at grade. As noted in the defensible space section, all decks including attached staircases must include the noncombustible 5-foot Home Ignition Zone around them.
  - For staircases 4 feet in width or less that attach to a deck and are open underneath should have one of the following requirements:
    - Open risers (no solid risers)
      - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
      - Stair treads should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.
    - Closed risers
      - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
      - Stair treads and risers should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.
  - For staircases wider than 4 feet that attach to a deck, the staircase should be cleared underneath and enclosed with noncombustible material with openings not to exceed 1/8-inch, such as 1/8-inch or finer metal mesh and include the following requirements:
    - Closed risers
      - Must have a minimum of 6 vertical inches of the bottom of stairs made from noncombustible material.
      - Stair treads and risers should be a solid (no gaps), noncombustible material, such as metal or light-weight concrete.

\* Note that these decks are engineered to have a solid walking surface and thermal expansions and weathering do not deform them. Do not install common deck boards with no gaps.