



Shelter in Yard Tips and Tasks: Attic & Crawl Space Vents



Windblown embers are the principal cause of building ignition and can readily enter attics and crawl spaces through vents.

Installing the recommended mesh screening and eliminating storage is critical to reducing building ignitions during a wildfire.



- Cover all vent openings with 1/8-inch or 1/16-inch wire mesh.
- Protect vents in eaves or cornices with baffles to block embers, backed by 1/16" wire mesh (mesh alone is not enough).
- For (under-eave) inlet vents, opt for a soffited eave design.
- For outlet vents, opt for a ridge that is rated to resist wind driven rain.
- Turbine vents also keep embers out, but you should attach a piece of 1/8" mesh to the bottom of the roof sheathing at the opening for the vent.



- Common 1/4" screens are ineffective as embers can pass through easily and should be replaced.
- Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.
- Avoid gable end vents. If alternatives are not possible, a wildfire-resistant gable vent that has passed ASTM E2886 should be used.



For more resources, visit our [Shelter in Yard](#) page on the [Santa Clara Council FireSafe Council](#) website.