



Fire Safety Garden Health Check

For Properties in Perth & South West WA

Use this checklist to identify potential fire risks in your garden. The goal is to separate fuel sources and create a "defendable space" around your home.

Zone 1: The Immediate Zone (0–2m from the house)

This area is your last line of defence. It should be virtually fuel-free.

- **No plants touching the walls:** Are there shrubs or creepers growing directly against the brickwork or cladding?
- **Non-combustible ground cover:** Is the path around the house made of pavers, gravel, or concrete (not woodchips or pine bark)?
- **Door mats:** Are flammable doormats removed from timber decking on high-risk days?
- **Gutters:** Are gutters free of dry leaves and twigs? (This is the #1 ignition point for ember attacks).

Zone 2: The Building Protection Zone (The 20m Circle)

The area extending 20 metres out from your home.

Trees & Canopy

- **The 2-Metre Gap:** Do all trees have a clear gap of at least 2 metres between the ground and the lowest branches? (This stops fire climbing up the tree).
- **Canopy Separation:** Is there a gap of at least 3 metres between the crowns of separate trees? (They should not form a continuous tunnel for fire).
- **Overhang:** Are any tree branches overhanging the roof or touching the eaves?

Ground & Mulch

- **Mulch Depth:** Is mulch kept to a depth of less than 75mm? (Deep mulch beds can smoulder for days).
- **Grass Height:** Is grass kept shorter than 100mm (10cm)?
- **Dead Material:** Is there a build-up of dead leaves, fallen branches, or bark strips under trees?

Plant Selection

- **"Oil-Rich" Check:** Do you have highly flammable plants like **Tea Trees**, **Bottlebrushes**, or **Woolly Bush** (*Adenanthos*) close to the house? These burn intensely and should be moved further away.



- **Clump Separation:** Are shrubs planted in small clumps rather than continuous hedges? (Hedges act as a fuse leading to the house).

Maintenance & Access

- **Gas Bottles:** Are gas bottles secured, with the valve facing away from the house, and the area around them clear of flammable material?
- **Firewood:** Is the woodpile stacked at least 10 metres away from the house (not against the back wall)?
- **Access:** Is your driveway clear of overhanging branches (min 4m height) so a fire truck can get in?

Disclaimer: This checklist is a maintenance guide to help reduce fire intensity. It does not guarantee a property will survive a bushfire.