



**Fire Department**  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952  
<http://cityofpetaluma.net>

## MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS FOR EXTERIOR WILDFIRE EXPOSURE

Fire Prevention Bureau  
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All structures, including single or multiple family dwellings and ancillary structures, located within the boundaries of the City of Petaluma's Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) are subject to the following conditions and require verification during building plan review process (17.20.040 - Petaluma Municipal Code):

Visit the State Fire Marshal's website for further information:

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/wildland.php>

Prior to approval of the building permit, the following conditions (based on amended sections of Chapter 7A, 2007 California Building Code) must be addressed and/or noted on the building plans.

**This applies to new construction only, not remodels or additions.**

### 1. **Ancillary Buildings and Structures**

- Ancillary buildings, structures, and detached accessory structures are subject to the same ignition resistant criteria as dwellings. If questions arise regarding applicability, contact the Building Official and Fire Marshal.

### 2. **Exterior Wall Finish**

- Approved noncombustible or ignition resistant material (ASTM E84 Standard)  
**or**
- Heavy timber or log wall construction  
**or**
- Shall provide protection from the intrusion of flames and embers in accordance with State Fire Marshal Standard (SFM) 12-7A-1 (Exterior Wall Siding and Sheathing)
- Unenclosed Under floor Protection:  
Buildings shall have all under floor areas enclosed to the grade with exterior walls complying with the same protection as that required for exterior wall finishes

Exception: The complete enclosure of under floor areas may be omitted where the underside of all exposed floors, exposed structural columns, beams and supporting wall are protected as required with exterior ignition-resistant material construction or be heavy timber.

### 3. **Roofs**

- Class A roof required
- Where metal flashing is used in valleys, the following shall apply:
  - Must use type 72 roll roofing (capsheet material is required)

- Flashing shall be corrosion resistant metal installed over roof materials, cap sheet running the full length of the valley
- Where roof profile allows for a space between the roof covering and deck, the spaces shall prevent the intrusion of flames and embers (i.e., tile roof edge opening must be “fire stopped” or patched with equivalent filler material)
- Roof gutters shall be provided with the means to prevent the accumulation of debris.

4. **Windows**

- Exterior Windows, window walls, glazed doors and glazed openings within exterior doors shall be insulating glass units with a minimum of one tempered pane (either inner or outer pane)  
**or**
- Glass block units  
**or**
- Have a fire resistant rating of not less than 20 minutes tested in accordance with ASTM E-2010 (using the vertical furnace specified in ASTM E-119)  
**or**
- Conform to the performance requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-2 (Exterior Windows).

5. **Attic Ventilation**

- The area of attic and/or under floor ventilation shall comply with the City of Petaluma Municipal Code. In the event that conflicts arise in design and construction requirements, the Building Official and Fire Marshal shall consider alternate methods and means of construction to establish “Best Practices” solutions.
- EAVE AND SOFFIT PROTECTION
  - Eave and cornice vents are not permitted unless they are provided with assemblies to resist the intrusion of flame and burning embers into the attic area of the structure.
  - Eaves and soffits shall meet the requirements of SFM Standard 12-7A-3  
**or**
  - Shall be protected by ignition-resistant materials or noncombustible construction of the exposed side  
**or**
  - Provide roof and attic vents that resist the intrusion of flame and embers into the attic area.
- OTHER EXTERIOR WALL VENTS
  - Vent openings shall resist the intrusion of flame. This also applies to under floor venting.
  - All vents shall be screened with corrosion-resistant, noncombustible wire mesh with ¼” openings or equivalent

6. **Exterior door assemblies**

- Standard SFM 12-7A-1  
**or**
- Approved non-combustible construction  
**or**
- Solid core wood having stiles and rails not less than 1-3/8” with interior field panel thickness no less than 1 ¼” thick  
**or**

- Have a fire resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to ASTM E 2074 (uses ASTM E 119 vertical furnace)
- Does not apply to garage doors ('vehicle access doors'), but they do apply to windows in the garage and exterior pedestrian access doors into the garage.
- The glass portion of sliding glass doors must conform to the window requirements

7. **Fire protection notes should read:**

- Provide fire sprinkler system installed in accordance with NFPA 13-D. This includes, but is not limited to, extension of the fire sprinklers into attached garages, and bathrooms over fifty-five (55) square feet, closets over twenty-four (24) square feet and/or three (3) feet in depth.

8. **Defensible Space**

- Provisions for fire safe landscaping of all yard areas should comply with Cal-Fire's "General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space." See website for more details:

[http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/Copyof4291finalguidelines9\\_29\\_06.pdf](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/Copyof4291finalguidelines9_29_06.pdf)

- Provisions for Annual Weed/Brush Abatement, as necessary, shall be the responsibility of the developer/property owner.
- For clarification regarding defensible space, contact the Fire Marshal's office at 707-778-4389 or [firemarshal@ci.petaluma.ca.us](mailto:firemarshal@ci.petaluma.ca.us),