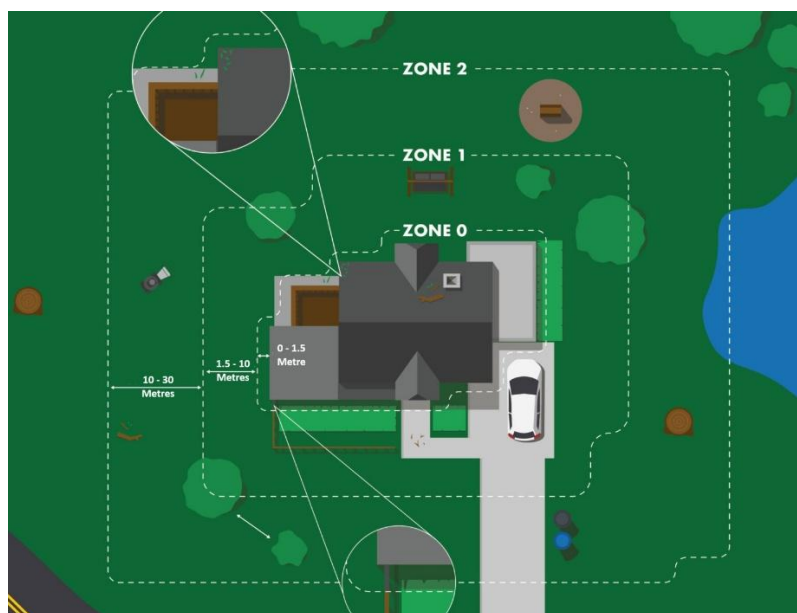


Prepare Your Yard



Defendable space is the area surrounding a building where vegetation and flammable materials are strategically modified to slow a fire's spread. This buffer reduces direct flame contact, limits radiant heat, mitigates ember attacks, and gives emergency crews a safe space to defend the property.

Fire management agencies generally divide this area into three distinct zone:



Zone 0 (The Immediate/Ember-Resistant Zone | 0 to 1.5 metres): This is the most critical area directly touching the structure. It should feature zero combustible materials. Clear out dead leaves from gutters, remove woodpiles, and avoid planting any vegetation against the walls.

- Use gravel, pavers, or concrete instead of combustible mulch
- Clear dead weeds, grass, and debris; check roofs, gutters, and outdoor areas
- Keep branches trimmed 3 metres away from chimneys and stovepipes
- Minimize combustible items like furniture and planters on decks
- Move firewood and lumber to Zone 2 for safety
- Replace combustible fencing and gates with fire-resistant materials
- Shift garbage and recycling containers to a safer area outside this zone
- *Utilise Aussie Drencher or Nozzles to wet the area to extinguish flying embers.*

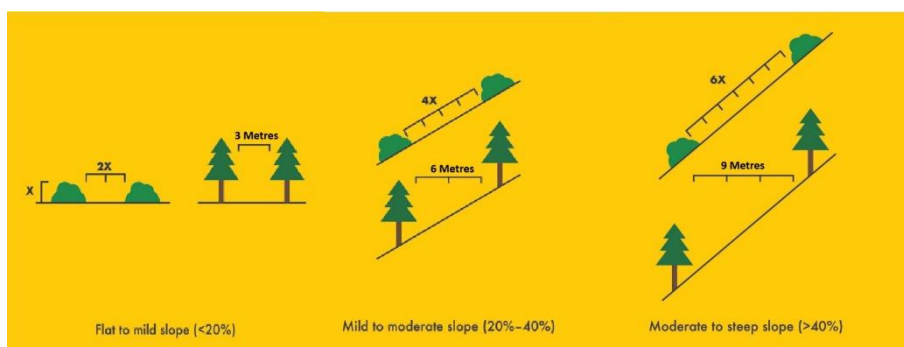
Zone 1 (The Inner Zone | 1.5 to 10 metres): This area aims to eliminate fuel that could feed a ground fire. Property owners keep lawns mowed short, prune lower tree branches up to 2 metres from the ground to prevent "ladder fuels," and maintain clear space between tree crowns.

- Clear all dead plants, grass, and weeds
- Trim overhanging branches and keep them 3 metres from your chimney
- Regularly trim trees to maintain a 3 metre gap from others
- Move wood piles to Zone 2
- Prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows
- Clear flammable vegetation and items from under decks, balconies, and stairs
- Maintain space between trees, shrubs, and flammable items like patio furniture and wood piles
- Ensure outbuildings have 3 metres of clear space to bare soil and no flammable vegetation within an additional 3 metres around them
- *Utilise Aussie Soaker Sprinklers to wet vegetation, increasing fire resistance.*

Zone 2 (The Outer Zone | 10 to 30 metres): This space acts as a transition to the natural bushlands. Dead vegetation, fallen twigs, and heavy scrub are cleared out or thinned out to reduce the overall fire intensity before it nears the home.

- Trim annual grass to a maximum height of 10 cm
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, and small branches.
- Keep exposed wood piles at least 3 metres clear from surroundings, down to the soil
- Ensure outbuildings have 3 metres of clear space to bare soil and no flammable vegetation within an additional 3 metres around them
- *Utilise Aussie Saturators to wet vegetation and increase buffer zone.*

Horizontal tree and shrub spacing depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees. Use diagram below as a guide to determine spacing distance.



Vertical spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees.

- Trim tree branches up to at least 2 metres from the ground.
- Increase vertical space between shrubs and trees to prevent fire from climbing.
- Use a formula for vertical spacing: Multiply shrub height by 3 for clearance.