

# What you'll need to get started on your **D.I.Y.** Project

## Materials

Gravel or sand for your driveway

## Tools

Rake  
Chainsaw  
Ladder  
Garden mulcher  
Secateurs  
Garden gloves  
Fire fighting equipment (diesel- or petrol-powered pump, hose with fire fighting nozzle etc)

## Safety

Always keep tools and materials away from children.  
Read the instructions before beginning your project.  
Wear an approved dust mask when cutting, planing or sanding timber AS/N251716.  
**Contact your local fire authority for detailed advice on home and personal planning for bushfires.**

# Planning your next **D.I.Y.** Project

The Bunnings **D.I.Y.** brochures are designed to help you step the way through your **D.I.Y.** home projects.

They'll give you the right advice on what materials you'll need, how to get the job done and tips and ideas for achieving the best result.



**SAME DAY DELIVERY**



**D.I.Y. WORKSHOPS**



**HARDWARE CAFE**



**WIDEST RANGE**



**HIRE SHOP**



**KIDS PLAYGROUND**



**WE WILL INSTALL**



**OPEN 7 DAYS**

## Expert **D.I.Y.** advice

If it's advice you're after, come in and discuss the project with one of our experts. Ask about organising Same Day Delivery, Tool Hire, Installation or even enrol in one of our **D.I.Y.** classes.



**EXPERT ADVICE**

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For more on how to D.I.Y., visit  
[www.bunnings.com.au](http://www.bunnings.com.au)  
[www.bunnings.co.nz](http://www.bunnings.co.nz)

# D.I.Y.

# Prepare For Bushfires

How to prepare your home for bushfire season



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BUNN752 01/10

**FREE**

# How to **D.I.Y.** Prepare For Bushfires

A bushfire can be a most frightening experience when it's threatening your house and family. With a properly planned and managed garden, you can reduce the potential damage to your home in the event of a bushfire.

Please Note:

The information in this brochure has been checked for accuracy and validity by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC). Bunnings excludes all liability in relation to the statements in this brochure.

**Contact your local fire authority for detailed advice on home and personal planning for bushfires.**

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warehouse

## Property design

Designing and managing the vegetation around your home can be the difference between losing your house to a bushfire or not. Houses can burn down as a result of sparks and embers landing on your house and sparking fires. You can improve the chances of your home surviving a bushfire by following some simple design tips below.

## Tips to prepare

Position low fuel areas around the house. Things such as driveways, pools, green lawns, gravelled areas or cultivated soils can help protect your house.

Plant trees away from the house so that limbs and branches won't hang over the roof and drop leaves in the gutters that will ignite if burning embers land. Try and keep trees and shrubs two metres apart so that there isn't a continuous canopy which could carry fire to the house.

## Reduce fire fuel

Your trees and plants provide fuel for fires. However it's the finer fuels such as dry grass, leaves and twigs that act as a conduit connecting the fire with other sources of fuel. Therefore, minimising fine fuels will reduce the fire's heat, its ability to spread and help in defending your home. You can reduce these fine fuels by mowing, raking, slashing and clearing grasses, installing fire resistant gutter guard and removing the accumulation of dead branches, bark or shrubs around your house. Regular plant pruning is essential to remove dead and dry material and promote lush new growth.

It is a good idea to keep all shrubs within a ten metre radius of your home no higher than one metre, and keep your grass between five and ten centimetres in height. Try not to place trees or shrubs below or next to windows.

Fine plant-based mulch such as wood chips or pea straw is a fine fuel and can ignite during ember attack. Using alternatives to plant-based mulch close to your home can reduce the impact of radiant heat or flame contact during a bushfire. Alternatives include pebbles and stones, weed mat or sand.

## Plant selection

All plants burn differently but the rule of thumb is that all plants burn. In planning your garden, look for plants that have smooth bark, large leaves that are moist and succulent or high in salt content and species that don't have a lot of oil glands in the leaves.



Fig 1. Ask one of our Team Members for examples of plants which might be suitable for your property.

**For further expert advice consult the qualified Team Members at your local Bunnings Warehouse or contact your local fire authority.**