

Fire-Safe Landscaping

Fire-safe landscaping uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. The good news is that you don't need to spend a lot of money to make your landscape fire-safe. And fire-safe landscaping can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home.



For tips and additional information on drought tolerant landscaping please contact the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division at 1(888) CLEAN LA or visit the website <http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

For any questions regarding brush clearance or to report a violation please contact the West Covina Fire Prevention Division at (626) 939-8823.



West Covina Fire Department
1444 W. Garvey Ave. S. #205
West Covina, CA 91790



West Covina Fire Department

BRUSH CLEARANCE AND HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM



The West Covina Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for enforcing the City's Municipal Code and Fire Code as they pertain to residential hillside properties. The Hazard Reduction Program involves activities that reduce or remove fuel before the onset of a fire. This is to minimize the damage to life, property and the environment in the event a fire does occur.

Who is responsible for hazard reduction?

Property owners are legally responsible for reducing the hazard. Ownership of a hillside or any property where dangerous brush accumulates brings with it certain responsibilities to ensure that potential risks to our community are mitigated. Failure to comply with the Municipal Code may result in City-ordered abatement of the property, where fees may be assessed in the form of a special lien. It is the owner's responsibility to maintain the property in good condition at all times. Following are the basic requirements for brush clearance in West Covina;

Defensible Space Zones

Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space.



Zone 1 – extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum feet from other trees.
- Remove branches that hang over roofs and keep dead branches 10 feet away from chimneys.
- Relocate wood piles into Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2 – extends 30 - 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Cut or mow annual grasses down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches to a depth below 3 inches.

Vertical Spacing

Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.

Allow extra vertical space between shrubs and trees. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the brush to the tree tops like a ladder.

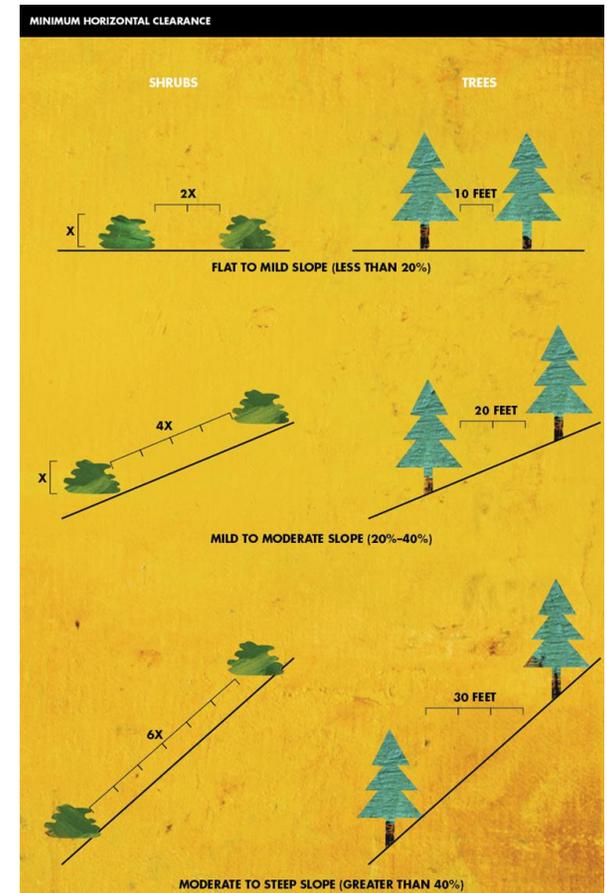
To determine the proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, use the formula below:



Example: A five foot shrub is growing near a tree. $3 \times 5 = 15$ feet of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branch.

Horizontal Spacing

Depends on the slope of the land and the height of the shrubs or trees. Check the chart below to determine spacing distance.



Plant and Tree Spacing

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfires. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of brush and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger vegetation requires greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.