

**CHITTENDEN GROUP**
INSURANCE

Home Matters

Protecting Your Home From Wildfires

For millions of U.S. homeowners, wildfires present a significant threat. Unfortunately, these natural disasters may often be caused by circumstances beyond your control. However, there are ways you may be able to protect your own property and minimize your chance of experiencing losses.

Consider the following steps to prepare your home for the threat of wildfires:

- Select fire-resistant materials when building or renovating your home.
- Minimize flammable vegetation on your property.

- Use noncombustible materials for landscaping and other exterior features.
- Install metal wire mesh over exterior vents and enclose foundations to suppress embers.
- Clean your roof and gutters and clear them of any debris regularly.
- Store firewood and other potential fuel sources at least 50 feet from your home.

In addition to these precautions, you should ensure that your homeowners insurance policy provides adequate coverage for wildfire-related losses.

Contact us today for more information.

Lowering Your Summer Energy Bills

While attempting to maintain comfort in your home amid hot summer conditions, your energy costs may rise. With that in mind, consider the following tips:

- Have your air conditioner and other equipment inspected by a qualified professional.
- Seal cracks and add caulk or weatherstripping around doors and windows to keep hot air out.
- Cover your windows with curtains or blinds to minimize heat entering your home.
- Use a programmable thermostat to allow your home to remain warmer while you are absent but to begin cooling as you return.
- Use bathroom fans after bathing or showering to exhaust heat and humidity.

