

The Real Dirt on Wood Mulch

Wood Mulch was frequently ignited by windblown embers during the Alameda Fire which spread flames and more embers to nearby homes and businesses.

Large chunk bark mulch should NOT be used around homes and businesses. Use fine-grained mulches away from buildings. Compost is the safest option.

Results of our Wood Mulch Burn Tests



LARGE CHUNK MULCH

1. Burns quickly
2. High flames
3. Not recommended



FINE-GRAINED MULCH

1. Ignites quickly
2. Smolders longer
3. Use 10' from buildings



COMPOST MULCH

1. Resists burning
2. No smoldering
3. Safest option



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People learning and working together are the foundation to fire adaptation.



SCAN ME

ALTERNATIVES TO WOOD MULCHES

Make your buildings and our community safer from wildfire with attractive alternatives to wood mulch.

ROCKS

- Don't burn!
- Comes in many colors, sizes, and textures.
- Don't need to be replenished each year, saving money.
- Protect foundations and siding from moisture, bugs, & rot.

HARDSCAPING

- Doesn't burn!
- Easier access for firefighters and residents around the perimeter of buildings.
- Protects foundations and wall siding from moisture, bugs, & rot.

BARE DIRT

- Doesn't burn!
- Cheapest alternative.
- Best where there is no traffic.
- Can be topped with decomposed granite for a very clean look.



Rock mulch, pavers, and bare dirt provide attractive alternatives to flammable wood mulch near buildings.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Remove all bark and wood mulches within 0-10 feet of any building and use rock, hardscape, bare dirt or compost.
2. Replace, modify, or isolate remaining areas of wood mulch within 30 feet of your home or business using the least flammable mulch or compost.



Prepare for fire season:

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