



AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

6310 WILHELMINA DELCO DR. AUSTIN, TX 78752

P: 512.974.0266 E: FirePrevention@austintexas.gov

AFD WUI Inspection Reference Guide

The WUI Inspection process is a multi-faceted process designed to help keep Austin's wildland fires from destroying our citizen's home based on the newly adopted WUI Code. There are 3 Classes of WUI building requirements based on the distances from the wildland.

- **Class A:** < 50' away from 40 continuous acres of the Wildland
- **Class B:** 50'-150' away from 40 continuous acres of the Wildland
- **Class C:** 150'-1.5 miles from 750 continuous acres of the Wildland

WUI Inspectors will make initial contact with the contractor for each structure that falls into the WUI. The WUI inspector will give the contractor an informational packet about the WUI inspection and will be the point of contact for the contractor to schedule their inspections. The contractor can schedule their WUI inspections *at the same time* they call DSD for their Frame Inspection for the WUI Frame and *before* they call for their Building Final for the WUI Final.

Inspection Checklist

WUI Class Distance from the wildland	WUI Structural Inspection	WUI Final
Class A Less than 50' from 40 continuous acres of wildland	Vent Screens ⁱ Spark Arrestors ⁱⁱ Eave, Soffit, Fascia ⁱⁱⁱ Roof Coverings ^{iv} Underfloor Coverings ^v Exterior Walls ^{vi} Doors & Windows ^{vii}	Fences and Gates ^{viii} Appendages/Accessory Structures ^{ix} Gutters and Downspouts ^x Uninhabitable Detached Structures ^{xi}
Class B 50'-150' from 40 continuous acres of wildland	Vent Screens Spark Arrestors Eave, Soffit, Fascia Roof Coverings Underfloor Coverings	Fences and Gates Appendages/Accessory Structures Gutters and Downspouts



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Class C 150'- 1.5 miles from 750 continuous acres of wildland	Vent Screens Spark Arrestors Roof Coverings	Fences and Gates Appendages/Accessory Structures Gutters and Downspouts
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i Vent Screens:

Ember protection shall be provided for all roof vents/openings, underfloor (crawl space) vents and any opening in a vertical wall (bath vents, kitchen hood vents etc.) shall comply with the WUIC Section 504.10 as amended. Ember protection consists of providing a 1/8 inch wire mesh behind all vents as described above.

All ventilation openings, including but not limited to attic vents, underfloor vents or any vent in the exterior walls, shall be constructed and be provided with ember protection by using 1/8 inch wire mesh to cover the openings behind all vents. Section 504.10.

Exception: Dryer vents.

ii Spark Arrestors:

Spark arrestors shall be installed on all chimneys, barbecues, incinerators or decorative heating appliances (chimaeras, fire pits etc.). Sec. 605

iii Eave/Soffit/Fascia:

For an eave or soffit, the exposed underside must be protected using ignition-resistant materials (i.e. cement board) **or** by materials approved for at least one-hour fire resistance-rated construction, two-inch (51 mm) nominal dimension lumber, one-inch (25 mm) nominal fire-retardant treated lumber, or 3/4-inch (19.1 mm) nominal fire-retardant treated plywood that is identified for exterior use and meets the requirements of Building Code, Section 2303.2.

Fascia must be protected using ignition-resistant materials **or** materials approved for at least one-hour fire resistance-rated construction or two-inch (51 mm) nominal dimension lumber. Section 504.3.1.

iv Roof Coverings:

Roof coverings shall be constructed with a Class A Roof material **or** a non-combustible roof material. This is only required for the roof covering and not the roof decking in most cases.



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Some cases a non-combustible roof decking is required but it would be very RARE. Section 504.2

v Underfloor Enclosures:

Any under floor enclosure, crawl space etc. shall be enclosed all the way to the ground with the same materials (or better) that is required for the exterior walls. Sec. 504. Any vent opening would need to be screened in accordance with Sec 504.10 (1/8" screening)

vi Exterior Walls:

For a building or structure within 50 feet (15,240 mm) of the wildland fuels, the exterior walls must be constructed using one or more of the following:

- materials approved for exterior use and at least one-hour fire- resistance-rated construction;
- approved non-combustible materials;
- heavy timber or log wall construction;
- fire-retardant-treated wood approved for exterior use that complies with Building Code Section 2303.2; or
- ignition-resistant materials approved for exterior use.
- **The material must extend from the top of the foundation to the underside of the roof sheathing.

vii Doors & Windows:

An exterior door within 50 feet (15,240 mm) of the wildland fuels, must have a fire protection rating of 20 or more minutes. Approved noncombustible construction materials and solid core wood that is 1¼-inches (44 mm) thick comply with this provision. A window within a door or a glazed door must comply with Section 504.8.

An exterior window, window wall and glazed door, window within an exterior door, or a skylight within 50 feet (15,240 mm) of the wildland fuels, must have a fire protection rating of 20 or more minutes. Tempered glass, multilayered glazed panels, and glass block comply with this provision.



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viii **Fences and Gates:**

That attach to a building projections must be constructed using at least one-hour fire-resistance-rated materials, heavy timber, or one of the following:

- Approved non-combustible materials;
- Fire-retardant-treated wood approved for exterior use that complies with Building Code Section 2303.2; or
- Ignition-resistant building materials that comply with Section 503.2

*Non-combustible fencing is only required for the first 5 feet from where the fence meets the structure.

ix **Appendages and Accessory Structures:**

An unenclosed accessory structure that is attached to or located within 5 feet (3,048 mm) of a building with habitable spaces and projections, such as a deck, must be constructed using at least one-hour fire-resistance-rated materials, heavy timber, or one of the following:

- Approved non-combustible materials;
- Fire-retardant-treated wood approved for exterior use that complies with Building Code Section 2303.2; or
- Ignition-resistant building materials that comply with Section 503.2.

x **Gutters and Downspouts:**

Gutters and all downspouts must be built from a non-combustible material. No plastic or fiberglass. Section 504.4. Gutters shall have non-combustible leaf guards installed to keep leaves and debris from accumulating.

xi **Uninhabitable Detached Structures:**

Uninhabitable detached Accessory Structures (detached garages, sheds, storage buildings, barns and similar structures...) that are within 50 feet of the wildland AND within 50 feet of a habitable structure shall be required to meet all of the requirements of the WUIC Section 504 and the enhanced constructions requirements of Section 504.5. The detached accessory structure shall be required to meet the enhanced requirements of sections 504.3.1, 504.8 or 504.9



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Scheduling your WUI Inspection(s)

For structural or final WUI inspection call the Scheduling Office at **512-974-0153 x3** during our scheduling hours between 8 AM and 1 PM, Mon-Fri.

*Please note that we do our best to return calls in order, so if you need to leave a voicemail be sure to leave your contact number and the permit number, we do call back same-day.

Please have the following information available:

Building Permit #(s)

Site Address(es)

WUI Class (A, B, or C)

WUI inspection desired (structural or final)

Items ready for inspection (vent screens, eaves, soffits, roof coverings, fence, etc.)

AB+C Account # (will always be required for fee processing)

On-site Contact (name, phone, email)

The inspection date will be determined based on availability.

There is a single inspection fee that covers the structural and final WUI inspection per home; however, if either inspection fails a re-inspection fee will be charged. These fees are processed at the time of scheduling.

**In the future our system will be modified to account for the inspection fee with all other BP fees, but until that time we will be processing them manually and sending invoices.